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Wife tackles raider after gun attack

BY TIM JONES

A WOMAN bank manager rugby-tackled an armed robber who beat her about the head after gaining entry yesterday to the family's £250,000 home and threatening their ten-year-old son with a shotgun.

Last night, armed police were hunting two men, whose plans to terrorise the family were thwarted by the bravery of Cathie Trewin, head of administration of a small sub-branch of Barclays Bank at Polegate, East Sussex.

Yesterday's attack started after her husband, David Trewin, who runs a double-glazing business, left for work. Mr Trewin said that his son, Michael, had answered a knock on the door thinking that he had returned to get something only to be confronted by the raiders. "He opened the door and this guy pushed a gun into his stomach," Mr Trewin said. "My son tried to run upstairs, but the guy grabbed him and pulled him back."

Mr Trewin said that his daughter Joanne, aged 17, was on her way downstairs when she saw what was hap-

pening. "She locked herself into the bedroom where my wife was getting ready for work and called the police," he said. "One of the men smashed the door down and burst into the bedroom. My wife tried to push them out and she was hit over the head with the gun butt."

Mr Trewin said that when the men realised that the police had been called they ran off, shouting warnings that they would shoot the family if they tried to follow.

His wife ignored their threats and chased them into the road, where she rugby-tackled one of them and held onto him, helped by a passing motorist. During the struggle, the gun was fired.

The man escaped when his accomplice, who had driven away in a car, returned and threatened his wife and the motorist with a gun.

Mr Trewin said: "I suppose she was rather foolishly but I think she has been absolutely incredible and so has my daughter. At one point Joanne stood between the gunman and my wife to protect her."

Mrs Trewin received hospital treatment but was not detained.

He said he believed that the raid was connected to his wife's work at the bank. "We are not wealthy people and don't keep any cash or jewellery at the house."

Their other daughter, Chelsea, aged 19, who had spent the night with friends, said: "We have always felt vulnerable being in this secluded spot. Things were made worse when our local postmaster and his baby were held up by gunmen nearby, not long ago."

Their beige BMW car, which was used by the raiders, was found abandoned at Teiscombe, near Peacehaven, on the Sussex coast.

Police described one of the men as tall, in his mid-30s. He wore a beige trench coat and had short ginger hair and a full ginger beard, which might have been false.

The other man, also in his 30s, was about 5ft 11in tall with short dark hair.



Under fire: Cathie Trewin yesterday with husband David and son Michael

Peer fined for assaulting nurse

THE millionaire founder of Imperial Group, the tobacco, food and drinks giant, admitted yesterday that he assaulted a nurse while on his way to arrange a £65,000 donation for the hospital where she worked.

Lord Duverton, aged 75, head of the Willis family, reversed his Jaguar into Mrs Caroline Jacka's cycle as she pushed it through Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, Bridger Shaw, for the prosecution, told magistrates. "She went to the front of the car to speak to him," said Mrs Shaw. "But he made no attempt to get out of the car or apologise. He said he could not see what had happened."

and then she was hit in the face. He said he had a train to catch." Mrs Shaw told the court in Cheltenham that the off-duty nurse then leant into the car in an attempt to snatch the ignition keys—but her arm was trapped and bruised when the electric window closed on it. "We are not saying what that happened, it could have been an accident,"

Anthony Newell, for the defence, said the Conservative peer was on his way to London for a meeting of his family's charitable trust, which was to decide a £65,000 donation to Moreton-in-Marsh hospital, where Mrs Jacka had just finished a shift on night duty.

In the accident the front wheel of Mrs Jacka's cycle was buckled and the forks bent. "She ran round to Lord Duverton and launched a loud tirade," said Mr Newell.

"He waved her away and unfortunately his gesture caught her face. It was not a deliberate blow but admittedly half an hour later there was still a slight red mark on her face."

"Since then he has tried through the matron of Moreton-in-Marsh hospital to arrange a meeting with Mrs Jacka so they could both apologise and settle this matter—but she has refused."

Lord Duverton, of Batsford Park, near Moreton-in-Marsh, was fined £50 for assault. He was also fined £25 and his licence was endorsed after he pleaded guilty to failing to report a road accident.

Charges of assault causing actual bodily harm and driving without due care and attention were dropped by the prosecution.

Lord Duverton was given 14 days to pay the fine and also ordered to pay Mrs Jacka £50 compensation.

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MPs' guide to the world's brothels

BY JOE JOSEPH

MPs wanting to know how to set up a brothel, whether it's best with a male pimp or a female madam in charge, how prostitutes operate abroad and where you can find hermaphroditic sex for sale now have the information at their fingertips.

Miss Whipplash, also known as Linda St Clair, a former madam and now leader of the Conservative Party, has lodged a dossier on the sex trade in the international affairs and defence section of the House of Commons library at the request of MPs.

"I consider it very prestigious," Miss St Clair said yesterday.

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Miss St Clair claims she can provide MPs with information they could never get themselves because "those involved in sex for sale despise and refuse to co-operate with governments and media who pigeon-hole them as lesser citizens". She calculates that there are two million prostitutes servicing 12 million clients in Britain, that 41 per cent of prostitutes have serious drug addictions and that 12 per cent of prostitutes and six per cent of their customers

are infected with the HIV virus. Whores range from the young and poor, who work in cars and alleys for £5, to women with swankier clients who charge £1,000 a session. In between you find ill-paid nurses, housewives and 'away-day' prostitutes who work in InterCity train lavatories, though presumably not while the train is at a station.

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Western Australia, set the best example for Britain. They are quiet, clean, "give value for money", the prostitutes pay tax and there are no pimps.

Life for prostitutes with male pimps seems even grimmer in the Far East than elsewhere, although Singapore has unique selling points. "There are many homosexual brothels where 'Mai-tais' (hermaphrodites) can be found."

There is also a sort of Which? guide to world services. "Germany is reputed to have the best 'S&M' brothels. France the best 'straight sex' brothels and Holland the best 'gay' brothels." Perhaps these trans-European disparities will disappear after 1992.

Orkney parents 'had guns at ready'

BY KERRY GILL

PARENTS on the Orkney island of South Ronaldsay had become so fearful of further seizures of children that some had guns at the ready and one had built an underground bunker to defy police and social workers, the judicial enquiry was told yesterday.

Mrs M, one of the mothers whose two children were removed in February's dawn raids, said the operation had created a climate of fear in the community. Some parents, she said, were ready to alert others about another raid by sending up flares.

She said: "The fear in the community was such that one family had prepared places under the floorboards for their children. People had guns ready and were making remarks like 'they will not get my children'. There were all sorts of contingency plans. It was a very frightening situation on South Ronaldsay."

She explained that the plans were made after the nine children had been taken away from their island homes by squads of police and social workers.

Mrs M told the enquiry at Kirkwall that she had suffered panic attacks. After one she had tried to contact Paul Lee, Orkney's director of social work, but it was late on a Saturday night and he did not call back until the next day. She said: "I don't know if you have had a panic attack. You don't need help 12 hours later. You need to be taken from the brink of madness then."

Earlier, she told the enquiry, before Lord Clyde, that she and her husband had been anxious to contact their sons, aged 15 and 12, who were taken into care last February following allegations of ritual sex abuse. They prepared a taped message to be played over the telephone, which said: "We love and miss you. We are trying to get this mess sorted out", but Mr Lee refused to allow it to be played.

Singling out The Times for special praise, Mrs M said the press had been of immense support to the families during the affair. "It sounds melodramatic but we bared our souls and they treated us with respect," she said.

Rantzen tells libel jury of 'distress'

ESTHER Rantzen, founder of ChildLine, came close to tears yesterday as she told a libel case jury that a Sunday newspaper article had struck at the heart of her work with abused children.

Miss Rantzen, aged 51, presenter of BBC Television's *That's Life*, told Mr Justice Otton and a High Court jury that ChildLine depended on the public believing in it. "No child, no family, would contact me if they didn't trust me and think I had integrity," she said.

ChildLine, which had helped 190,000 children in its five-year existence, depended on children knowing that, when they rang its number, it would care about them.

Miss Rantzen, suing The People for damages, alleges libel over articles in February, including a front-page story headed "Esther and the sex pervert teacher", which said she had kept quiet about an alleged child abuser because she owed him a favour.

She said: "This attacked at the heart of what I believe to be the most important thing I'm employed to do, which is that aspect of my work which protects children."

Richard Hartley, QC, for

Miss Rantzen, said that the paper had effectively alleged "sick-making hypocrisy". It had plainly accused her of protecting a man guilty of child abuse, because of help he had given her to expose abuse at a school where he once worked. She had been asked by police not to do anything that would alert the man to investigation of him, and so she had asked The People to delay publication.

Mirror Group Newspapers, Brian Radford, a journalist, and Richard Stone, former People editor, plead justification and fair comment. The case continues today.

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Boy's secret world undone

BY TIM JONES

THE secret world imposed by the mother of the "forgotten boy" rescued from an isolated life in his rat-infested home crumbled yesterday as dozens of people offered to help to return them to normal society.

But his grandfather, who turned up at the house in New Haw, near Weybridge, Surrey, refused to discuss the plight of his daughter and her son, whose life is recorded only by his birth certificate.

The unemployed grandfather, who has been ordered to clean up the property, said: "The way my grandson has been brought up is nothing to do with you. Different people live in different ways. This is my house and you have no right to be here." As he spoke,

vintage car enthusiasts travelled to the village in the hope of buying the 1940s Austin Eight car they had seen photographed in the overgrown garden. It had been used by the boy's mother as a food store because the kitchen was so full of rubbish that she could not get into the refrigerator.

As the offers of help were received, care workers from Surrey county council were interviewing the mother, aged 31, and her son, aged 11, to determine whether they should be separated.

Social service officials have said that they will be kept together if possible, in spite of the strange life and filthy conditions imposed on the boy, who is described as having an angelic face.

When police broke into the house, they found the pair lying on a bed in the house, which was thick with excrement and contained the corpses of 28 dead pets.

The boy, never seen without his mother, had never been to school, although he was numerate and literate. There was no television aerial on the roof of the house but there was a television in one of the rooms.

A council spokeswoman said: "We have had a lot of phone calls from the public, who are extremely sympathetic, offering help, money and presents."

"People have phoned from all over the country and we have had offers of help from local people. One businessman even offered a house."

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Banham sets 5-year goal for council shake-up

THE reorganisation of local government in England will put the customer first and should be completed within five years, the man heading the review said yesterday.

In his first interview since being appointed to chair the new local government commission, John Banham, director general of the CBI, told The Times that reform was "long overdue".

The commission has been given the job of abolishing one of the two tiers of local government outside London and the metropolitan areas to create a single tier of all-purpose authorities. The new body will also have the power to redraw council boundaries anywhere in the country and to recreate historic titles such as Middlesex, Rutland and the Ridings of Yorkshire, as "non-administrative counties".

Mr Banham, who founded the Audit Commission in 1983 and was its first chief executive, said he was committed to the principle of local democracy, but the existing system had outlived its usefulness. "I believe that accountability is very important and that people are thoroughly confused about who is responsible for what," he said.

"The fact is that most of the money is spent in the shires by county councils which are not sending out the bills and

In the first interview since his appointment, the chairman of the local government commission talks to Douglas Broom

no one knows what proportion of the costs of local government services are covered by taxpayers, businesses or community charge payers. It is a very confused situation. The system has long been in need of reform."

"To my mind, there has been too much emphasis on local government and not enough concern for the customers who use local services. We should be putting the customers first."

Mr Banham, whose appointment is for four years, added: "I have always believed that if you cannot do something like this within five years, you can probably never do it at all."

The commission cannot be formally established until the local government bill, currently in the Lords, becomes law. The legislation gives ministers the power to appoint up to 15 commissioners.

Mr Banham said: "It is not quite the more the merrier,

but I do want to see a broad commission so that individual commissioners could look at individual parts of the country in detail."

Having 15 enquiries running simultaneously would go some way to calming fears about the impact of the review. Council leaders fear that areas left until last will lose key staff to regions which have already been reviewed.

Mr Banham refused to be drawn on the shape of local government that might emerge from the review, especially in his native Cornwall, which many believe may be one of the few areas where the county council will survive.

He was sanguine about the immediate financial benefits of reorganisation, but believed that significant savings and improvements in services would eventually result.

"I have long been a believer in the adage that if it ain't broke, don't fix it," he said. "I do not see this commission as being a solution looking for problems."

"There are enormous advantages to be gained from having a unitary system. That is the premise on which the commission has been established. I think there is tremendous support for that across the political spectrum," he said.

Social charter, page 29

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BY JOE JOSEPH

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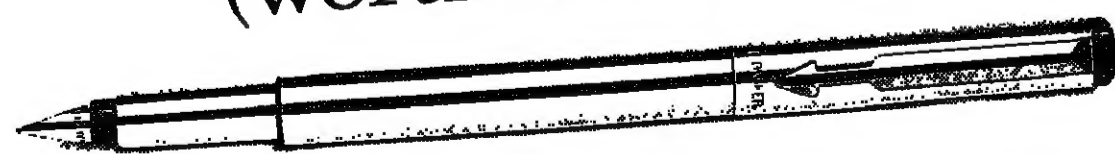
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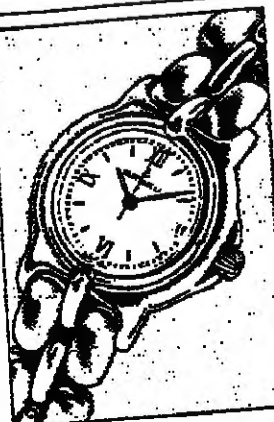
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Touring companies win 19% boost Regions gain from Arts Council grants

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Arts Council is passing on its biggest ever government funding increase of 13.9 per cent to its clients, it was announced yesterday, keeping virtually nothing back for its own projects or administration.

Anthony Everitt, secretary general of the Arts Council, said yesterday: "The basic message of the settlement is more money for arts activity, and we are not going to allow overheads to rise by more than 5 per cent." The emphasis is to be on the regions and touring, as recommended by Tim Renton, arts minister.

The ten new regional arts boards get an average of 17 per cent more for 1992-3, with the South, South-East and East getting 20 per cent to even up a longstanding inequality, and the others 13.9 per cent. The grant set aside for touring goes up by 19 per cent, with smaller companies singled out for special consideration.

The Bristol Old Vic and the Liverpool Playhouse, both beset by financial problems because of shortfalls in local authority grants, are still the subjects of negotiation, as is the Liverpool Everyman.

Northern Sinfonia, the Newcastle-based orchestra, has won a 30.6 per cent

increase to £613,000, and Manchester's Hallé Orchestra, with Kent Nagano as its new musical director, will have 17.9 per cent more. Regional theatres to benefit include Contact Theatre, Manchester (21 per cent), Watford's Theatre Royal (33.3 per cent) and the Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich (25 per cent). Scottish Opera has been given 20 per cent more, and Welsh National Opera 120 per cent, both for touring in England. The English Shakespeare Company has 60 per cent more for touring, and Glyndebourne Productions 61 per cent.

While the news is generally good, thanks to an overall



Everitt: council will keep overheads down

increase in the government's Arts Council allocation from £194 million to £221 million. It is bad for some notable clients. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's grant will be cut from £460,000 to £400,000, partly because it will make fewer London appearances next season, according to Mr Everitt.

Ian MacLay, the RPO's managing director, said: "We are very disappointed, especially in view of the Arts Council's own appraisal of us in the summer, which recommends that there should be funding for our touring outside London. This recommendation from its own team has plainly been ignored by the council. It will make life difficult."

The Royal Opera House is to get only 6.5 per cent more to fund its three companies, while English National Opera gets 9 per cent for its one company.

What Mr Everitt described as "good news across the board for the South Bank" was not being received as such by the South Bank Board, which is to get 8.5 per cent more, bringing its grant up by £1 million to £13,160,000. The real value of its grant has fallen by almost 25 per cent since the board was founded to run the South Bank Centre five years ago. Richard Pulford, the administrative director, said: "It is gratifying to get an increase in grant over inflation, but it falls a very long way short of making good the decline in the real value of our grant that we have suffered."

The National Theatre is to get £1 million more, bringing its grant up to £10,895,000, and the London Philharmonic Orchestra, which takes up residency on the South Bank in September, has had its grant increased by almost 130 per cent to £1,062,000 to help fund its new status. The Philharmonia Orchestra, which was beaten to the residency by the LPO, is to get a 23 per cent boost in its grant to £700,000.

The Royal Shakespeare Company and the London Symphony Orchestra, which last year got large increases, had less substantial ones this time, of 5 per cent and 6 per cent respectively.

London clients of the Arts Council who suffered under the drastic cuts made by the London Boroughs Grants Scheme in the summer have been given extra funding, although not, Mr Everitt emphasised, in recompense for lost LBGS funding.

The London International Festival of Theatre, whose joint directors won a Prudential Award for their work two weeks ago, will get a 50 per cent increase to £226,000, and the Greenwich Theatre, which faced closure until its appeal against the LBGS cut, will get a 23.5 per cent rise to £186,000. The Young Vic, still struggling to update its theatre against inadequate income, will get 51.6 per cent more, an increase from £312,000 to £473,000.

Head boy: Alexander Aitken, aged 17, brushes up on his Egyptology and the remains of a mummy case, part of an exhibition of artefacts in the Old Speech Room Gallery at Harrow, northwest London, which opened yesterday. The school is honouring one of its old boys more than a century after his death in obscurity (Norman Hammond writes). When Queen Victoria came to the throne the name of John Gardner Wilkinson was famous in all the academies of Europe: his

Manners and Customs of the Ancient Egyptians earned him a knighthood in 1839. Until now, however, this Harrovian pioneer has been a forgotten figure.

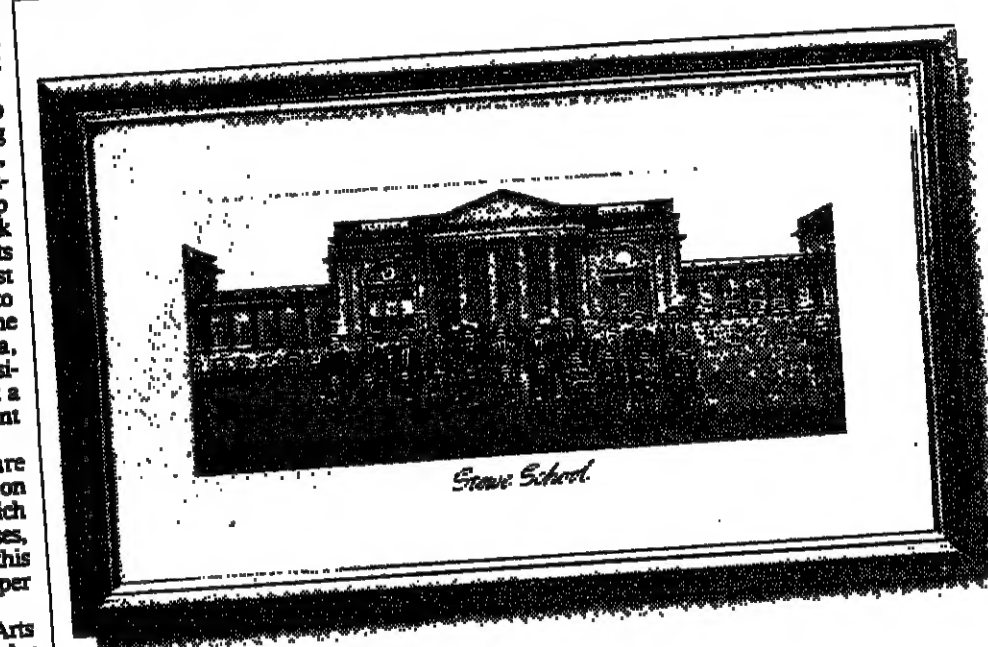
"Unlike his illustrious French counterpart Champollion, who deciphered Egyptian hieroglyphics, Gardner Wilkinson is barely remembered today," said Dr Ian Shaw, who organised the commemorative exhibition. Wilkinson was the founder of British Egyptology, and documented many important

sites for the first time, including Tell el Amarna, the site of the capital of Amenhotep IV, built on the Nile below Asyut about 1375 BC.

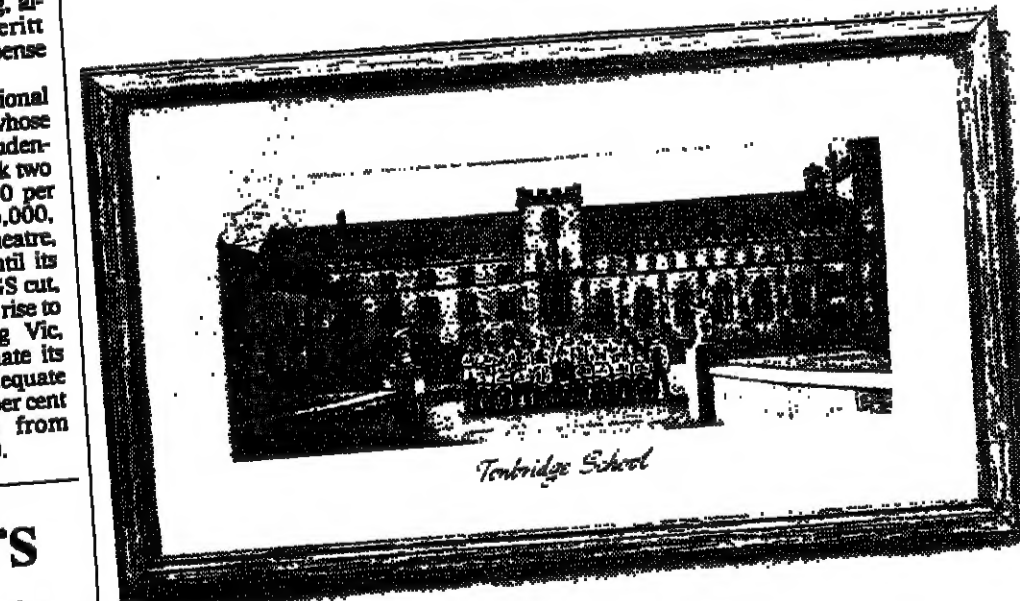
Wilkinson was sent to Harrow in 1814, when George Butler was head master; in 1865 he presented his collection, the result of 12 years' continuous fieldwork, to the Rev H. Montagu Butler, the new head and his predecessor's son. What Harrow gained was a disparate and fascinating rag-bag of small objects, the sort of thing that a gentleman trav-

eller could pick up and carry with him: not for Wilkinson the colossal statues and sarcophagi that his immediate precursor, Giovanni Belzoni, shipped back for the British Museum.

The most spectacular piece is the papier mâché head of a mummy case, pictured here. Its anonymous eyes will stare out for the next five months at a new generation of Harrovians. Wilkinson's collection will be on display until April 26, 1992. Call 081-869 1205 for times.



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Fire killed children left alone

A mother who left her children alone when she went out drinking last night came back to find them dead in a fire, an inquest was told yesterday.

Paula Breary, a single parent, left her flat, at Willesden, north London, at 2am on July 14 and returned at 9.30am to find the living room black with smoke, the inquest at Haringey, north London, was told. Her screams alerted neighbours, who tried to reach Carlos Roberts, aged three, and Chantelle Roberts, two, who were found in their bedroom overcome by fumes.

Roger Bennett, a fire investigator, said that the blaze must have been started by an easily-ignited gas fire in the living room. "One of the children must have switched on the gas fire and a flame was transmitted to a sofa, probably by a piece of paper," he said.

David Paul, the coroner, who was told that the Crown Prosecution Service had decided against prosecuting the mother, recorded verdicts of accidental death.

Teacher's porn

Martin Freke, former head of music at Cundale public school, was given a two-year conditional discharge for possessing indecent photographs of children, including girls as young as five. Corby magistrates, Northamptonshire, were told that Freke, aged 44, now of Sidmouth, Devon, had since left his job.

Soldiers resign

Three Territorial Army soldiers in Swindon, Wiltshire, have resigned to join Croatian forces in Yugoslavia's civil war. Jim Hickson, Philip Dollimore and James Clodfelter are taking their medical supplies in a car they have bought.

Girl poisoned

A girl aged two was fighting for her life yesterday after falling into a trough of poisonous sheep dip on her father's farm at Painswick, Gloucestershire. Police made a 120mph dash down the M5 to Southmead hospital, in Bristol, to collect an antidote.

Birds put down

About 100 rare tropical birds with psittacosis, a disease which can kill humans, are to be destroyed at the council-owned Paxton Houses aviary in Sheffield.

Son's death

Ian Storey, aged 11, was found hanged in his bedroom at Bramhall, Greater Manchester, after his mother sent him to bed early as punishment.

Pit to close

The loss-making Thurcroft Colliery, near Rotherham, South Yorkshire, is to close with the loss of 650 jobs. British Coal announced.

Trees stolen

Thieves stole 500 Christmas trees from a plantation at Buckland St Mary, Somerset.

Study of cot death fumes link

By THOMSON PRENTICE
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH department scientists are to study evidence which suggests that some cot deaths are due to poisonous fumes from babies' mattresses.

The latest findings reopen a dispute over the theory that fumes are generated by a combination of phosphorus, antimony or arsenic, chemicals used as fire retardants or preservatives, and fungi that can grow in the mattresses.

Health department experts carried out tests last year on 50 mattresses to investigate the hypothesis, put forward by Barry Richardson, a biochemist and director of Penarth Research International. Last June the group reported that it found no supportive evidence, but said manufacturers should reconsider the use of the chemicals.

Yesterday Mr Richardson and colleagues, working in Guernsey, said they had found the chemicals in 100 mattresses on which cot deaths had occurred, and all emitted the fumes when a common household fungus was present.

Health department experts will now study Mr Richardson's findings, which may lend weight to the department's advice earlier this month that babies should be placed on their backs or sides to sleep.

Porridge eaters denied their oats

By KERRY GILL

SOME of the pithiest observations made about the Scots and their porridge, their drink and their sex lives, can be disclosed today, the eve of St Andrew's day, by two Scottish authors who have carried out extensive research to show how their country has been viewed by visitors hostile and friendly.

The *Scottish Quotation Book*, compiled by Joyce and Maurice Lindsay and published by Robert Hale at £5.95, contains more than 300 examples by, and about, Scots, including an offering from Samuel Johnson. When his chronicler, James Boswell, said, "I do indeed come from Scotland, but I cannot help it," Johnson replied: "That, sir, I find, is what a great many of your countrymen cannot help."

Dr Johnson went on to define oats in *A Dictionary of the English Language* as "a grain, which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland supports people". The partisan Burns later extolled porridge oats as "the wholesome parrich, chief o' Scotia's food".

However, it is drink that is closest to a Scotsman's heart. Burns said "Freedom and whisky gang together", but it was David Daiches, the critic and writer on Scottish culture, who summed up every

Scotsman's unstated belief: "The proper drinking of Scotch whisky is more than indulgence; it is a toast to civilization, a tribute to the continuity of culture."

Although Burns could be charming, sex rates a poor third among Scots after drink and religion, perhaps because of Calvinism and acid mate, as Sydney Smith's acid words, in a letter to Lady Holland, testify: "Love, though a very acute disorder in Andalusia, puts on a very chronic shape in these high northern latitudes: for first the lover must prove metaphysically that he ought to; and then in the fifth or sixth year of courtship, or rather argument, if the summer is tolerably warm, and oat meal plenty, the fair one yields." He was obviously irked by an uninterested Edinburgh woman, Mrs Apreece, as he added: "I have a woman who seems to be hermetically sealed in the lower regions."

Somewhere between the two views is the old Dundee saying: "If ye want a boy, dae it wi' yer buits on." But then Lord Cockburn was moved to observe of the city: "Dundee, certainly now, and for many years past, the most black-guard place in Scotland... a sink of atrocity, which no moral flushing seems capable of cleansing."



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These results are unaudited. *Comparative figures for the corresponding 1990 period.

The contents of this advertisement, for which the Directors of The British Petroleum Company p.l.c. are responsible, have been approved for the purposes of Section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986 by Ernst & Young, a firm authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on investment business. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future.

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Victims of cowboy builders 'cannot sue'

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE whose houses develop faults because of bad building have virtually lost their legal right to claim compensation from either the builders or the local council that passed the work, the National Consumer Council says in a report published today.

Lady Wilcox, council chairman, said: "If you discover that the walls in your house are cracking, the house is sinking, sewage is leaking and your gas mains are in imminent danger of cracking because of faulty foundations, you will be amazed to know that you now have hardly any legal right to compensation."

The council urges the restoration of the right to compensation for victims of "cowboy" building, and says that the current situation, which has arisen as a result of a legal judgment, means that thousands of homeowners could face huge repair bills that would not be covered by their insurance. The only exceptions are if the faults cause injury to someone or damage to other property, or if the owner bought the house directly from the builder and sues within six years of purchase.

Lady Wilcox said that parliament had passed the 1987 Consumer Protection Act to



Wilcox: owners must be amazed at lack of rights

Changes to Nato's command 'agreed'

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A CHANGED Nato command structure for northern Europe has been agreed in principle, with a new centre to be based in Britain, according to Johan Jorgen Holst, the Norwegian defence minister.

The new structure in Britain, the north-west command, which has been the subject of heated discussions in a working group for several weeks, would be responsible for the Baltic Sea, the English Channel and the United Kingdom air and land command, Mr Holst said.

British sources said yesterday that Mr Holst's statement was premature. They said that none of the recommendations from several working groups had yet been put to ministers. However, Mr Holst said that the reorganisation for northern Europe

had been agreed between Britain, Germany, Denmark and Norway.

Nato is currently involved in a study that will produce the biggest shake-up in commands since the alliance was formed. Every command organisation is under scrutiny and headquarters currently filled with senior ranking officers are to be pruned. Recommended changes will be discussed by defence ministers in Brussels next month.

Mr Holst said that the present northern Europe command headquarters outside Oslo would be replaced by a multinational command whose main function would be to plan and organise allied reinforcements to Norway "in times of crisis and war". He also indicated that all of Germany would be placed under a central command.

Jumbo effort to spirit show away

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

WHEN the curtain falls on *The Phantom of the Opera* at Her Majesty's Theatre on Saturday night, a volunteer crew will move in and, overnight, spirit away the entire set, costumes and sound and light equipment.

Twenty-four hours later, they will shift it all back again. Meanwhile, they will have moved in *Dance for Life*, the royal gala which will play for Sunday night only, to raise money for the Aids charity Crusaid.

The *Phantom's* chandelier will remain as one of the few pieces of the set that can double for the dance programme. The huge elephant will have to join the rest of the equipment housed either below stage or in two trucks outside.

Paul Kelly, the voluntary production co-ordinator for the operation, said: "This is a logistical nightmare. It must be the biggest operation of its kind ever in the West End."

As well as being one of the most successful musicals, which has been sold out since it opened five years ago, the Lloyd Webber show is also the most complex, with its special effects a benchmark for theatre design. All of that has to be moved aside to make way for the dance lighting designed by the same man, Andrew Bolton.

To provide the manpower, volunteers from other West End shows have been drafted in. The lighting department alone has a complement of 19, and sound 11. As soon as Saturday night's performance ends, the cast of 36 has half an hour to vacate the dressing rooms. The 17 dressers must then store the 250 costumes in the theatre's attic.

Meanwhile, *Eat Your Heart Out* sets up in the theatre foyer, not to add some extra ghoulish aspect to the event, but to cater for the crew, which will be working all night.

Dance for Life, in the presence of the Princess of Wales, is expected to raise about £150,000 for Crusaid. Taking part will be ballet stars including Natalia Makarova, Christopher Gable and Moira Shearer, and the actor Derek Jacobi.

"Most of the crew are volunteers, and those who are being paid we hope will donate their wages to Crusaid," Mr Kelly said. "We have had co-operation from every quarter. Because there aren't enough dressing rooms at Her Majesty's, for instance, we're able to use some across the road at the Haymarket. I think we know precisely how to do it — but what the hell do you do with an elephant?"

ing the defect. Although the Law Lords accepted that Mr Murphy's case for compensation was stronger, they held that he was not in law entitled to any compensation. They held that, outside the law of contract, builders and local authorities were not liable for damage caused to the house itself, even if they were careless.

They made it clear that the same principles applied to products as well as houses. For example, although the manufacturer would be liable for injuries caused by defective brakes in a car, it would not be liable for the cost of making the car safe, and so avoiding any injury.

The basis of the modern law of negligence was set out in *Donoghue v Stevenson* (1932), where it was held that a manufacturer could be liable for the injuries caused to a consumer where the decomposed remains of a snail in a bottle of ginger beer made the consumer sick.

Murphy's Law (NCC, 20 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1V 0DH; £2.50)



Euro star: Juliet Lodge in London yesterday after receiving the 1991 UK Woman of Europe award

Woman of Europe reaps her reward

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA

JULIET Lodge, professor of European politics at Hull University, was yesterday named 1991 UK Woman of Europe, in recognition of 20 years' active support of European integration.

Professor Lodge, who has advised numerous groups on EC matters and organised the first European week in Britain, was chosen from a shortlist of 12 for the award, made each year since 1987 in individual countries of the European Community under the auspices of the European Commission, the European parliament, and the European Movement.

Professor Lodge said: "I think the award recognises that there are enormous numbers of people, female members of society, who have been promoting Europe. It's nice to be recognised."

Britain, she said, lagged behind its European partners in entrenching the rights of women, but harmonisation would lead to improvement in women's working conditions and the arrangements for maternity leave.

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Carey attacks big shops for Sunday trading

By Robin Young and Robin Oakley

THE government's embarrassment over Sunday trading was intensified yesterday as the Archbishop of Canterbury accused supermarkets that plan to open on Sundays of betraying those seeking to keep young people on the right side of the law. Labour MPs contrasted the non-prosecution of supermarkets breaking the law with the pursuit of those failing to pay their poll tax.

Ministers concede that the government response looks weak, but insist that nothing can be done until the European court clarifies the law. The government wants change, but cannot risk the rebellion by Tory MPs that would follow any attempt to bring in measures not agreed by pro-Sunday campaigners.

Although Dr George Carey said that he sympathised with the government's dilemma, he said in a statement from Lambeth Palace that he found big stores' plans to open on the remaining Sundays before Christmas deeply worrying.

Dr Carey agreed with John

Major the law was unsatisfactory, but insisted that as it stood it should be obeyed. He said: "Those in the community who are trying to encourage the young and the disadvantaged to be law-abiding will rightly feel betrayed when wealthy and powerful groups and individuals announce they are prepared to break the law."

In his statement, Dr Carey



Dr Carey: shops giving poor example

welcomed the government's stated intention not to seek total deregulation of all Sunday trading curbs. He said: "The churches and other faith communities have consistently maintained that one day a week should be significantly marked out for rest, recreation and worship."

Activists lobbying for shop hours reform pointed out in reply that Westminster Abbey and other church bookshops had been in regular and frequent breach of Sunday trading regulations for years.

The cabinet concluded yesterday that nothing could be done to sort out what ministers acknowledge as an unholy muddle on Sunday trading until the European court has pronounced.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney-general, was called in to explain the complexities and a senior minister emphasised last night that Sir Patrick's decision not to act against stores was one he took himself in his legal capacity. It was not a political decision for ministers.

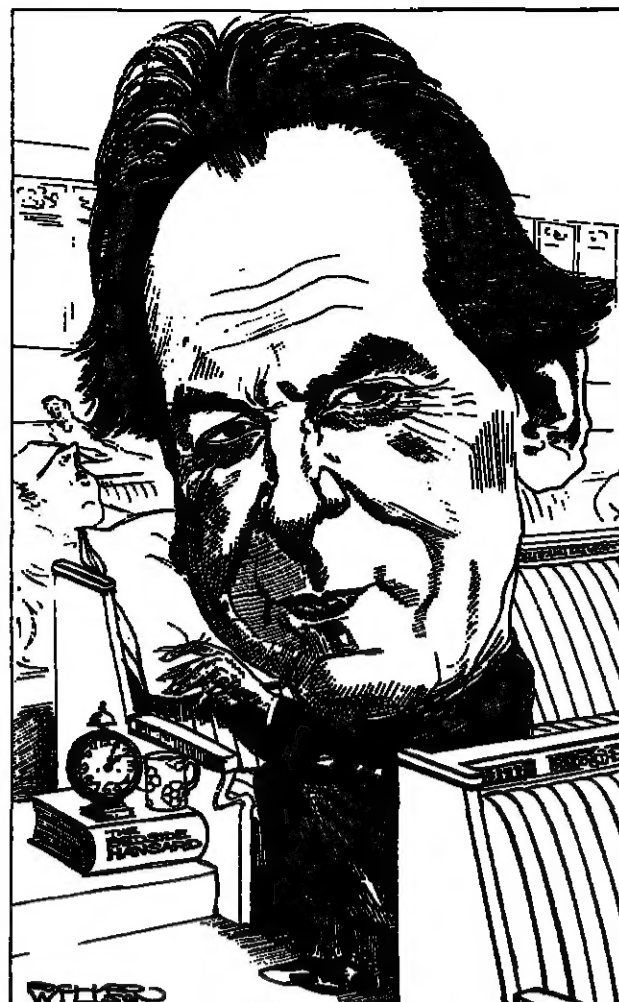
In the Commons, the prime

minister, challenged by Audrey Wise, the Labour MP, who is sponsored by the shopworkers' union Usdaw, defended his description of the present Sunday shopping law as bizarre, but said there were acute difficulties in changing the law in the short term.

"The House of Lords has concluded that the Sunday trading laws are unclear. It has therefore referred them to the European court of justice to clarify whether they are compatible with European law." He hoped for an early ruling so the Lords could make their judgment. Then it would be for the government to frame legislation.

Peter Lewis, the chairman of the John Lewis Partnership, confirmed last night that its shops would not be opening on Sunday this December. He said that they had never contemplated doing so as it was "plainly illegal". Sunday trading would bring no real benefits to customers or staff.

Philip Howard, page 18



Cunningham: criticises "antiquated proceedings"

Parties agree on Commons reform scheme

By Sheila Gunn, Political Correspondent

REFORMS to MPs' working hours to allow some morning debates in the Commons, the abolition of late night and Friday sittings and the setting of a timetable for examining government bills have been broadly agreed by the main political parties.

Although they differ on details, the business managers from the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties are backing a wide-ranging package of reforms to improve working practices in the Commons after the next general election.

The Commons sittings committee, set up by John Major to draw up reforms of the House, is expected to reflect their proposals in its report to be published in January. The prime minister and John MacGregor, leader of the House, are anxious for MPs to approve the changes before the general election.

Jack Cunningham, shadow leader of House, disclosed yesterday that he supports most of the recommendations Mr MacGregor has made to the committee. Dr Cunningham said: "Parliament needs reform. The way we conduct business is perceived by many inside and outside the House as outdated and inefficient. The lack of adequate facilities, with the hours of sittings, prevent many people, and women especially, from contemplating involvement in our democratic process."

He added: "The reputation of Parliament is undermined by the antiquity of the proceedings and facilities of the House of Commons." His recommendations, similar to

Mr MacGregor's proposals, include:

- morning sittings on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday;
- the Commons to rise at 9pm Monday to Wednesday and 1pm on Thursday;
- no Friday sittings;
- a fixed parliamentary calendar;
- timetables for all government bills;
- fewer 10-minute rule bills;
- and time limits on business questions.

Dr Cunningham said that he no longer believed long hours, late night sittings keeping the government up all night and other tactics had much impact.

The Liberal Democrats' chief whip, Jim Wallace, presented his party's recommendations for reform yesterday, also calling for a fixed calendar; earlier nights, especially on Thursdays; and the abolition or reduction of Friday sittings. Although, like Labour, the Liberal Democrat MPs have always voted against the government's use of a guillotine to limit debate on bills, they now support the case for a timetable to be set before work begins on legislation as in America.

"The proviso would have to be that the timetable for each bill was agreed at the outset by a business committee which included representatives of all major parties, rather than being imposed by the government or stitched up by the usual channels," the Lib Dems said.

Prisoners 'need more pay'

PRISONERS should work harder and be paid more so that they can compensate their victims, support their families and contribute to prison running costs, the Commons employment committee said yesterday (Sheila Gunn writes).

The MPs also suggested trying schemes whereby prisoners could be directly employed by private firms.

Their report was harshly critical of the Home Office's work and training regime, echoing calls from the Woolf enquiry and the Commons education committee for radical reforms.

The committee said that prisoners' pay should be increased immediately from the present rates of between £1.90 and £6.37 a week to an average of £8 and a maximum of £10 a week. "In the longer term, we recommend realistic rates of pay, out of which prisoners would provide for their dependants and make some contribution to the cost of imprisonment."

Present restrictions on prisoners' working hours to little more than four hours a day were criticised by the committee and it pointed out that the government's white paper on prison reform sets no targets for improvement. "There are too few places, much of the work is boring and too little attention is being paid to work with a proper training content."

The enquiry also found that job clubs in prisons to help find work for released prisoners were under threat and the employment department had dropped its schemes for placing former offenders with employers.

The National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders welcomed the committee's report and said that a rise in prisoners' pay above the present "Toytown" levels was long overdue. "These proposals would greatly increase the chances of steering ex-prisoners towards a law-abiding way of life."

Employment in Prisons and for Ex-offenders: Commons employment committee first report (Stationery Office: £17.65)



Le Pen is not to be barred

Kenneth Baker will not use his powers as home secretary to prevent Jean-Marie Le Pen, the French National Front leader, from visiting Britain next week. John MacGregor, leader of the Commons, said yesterday that M Le Pen was an elected politician and should not be subject to the home secretary's powers.

Interest rate cut rejected

The Chancellor brushed aside calls from both sides of the Commons that he should reduce interest rates. Replying to suggestions that as inflation had fallen, real interest rates were much higher than necessary, Norman Lamont said that the first priority was to maintain the external value of the currency within the exchange-rate mechanism. He added that, had he followed the advice of the Labour party, "I dread to think where the pound would be now."

Welsh trust

The first National Health Service hospital trust in Wales and a £186 million increase in health spending in the principality were announced by the government in the Commons. Pembrokeshire NHS trust will start from next April, David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, said in a statement.

Classic gift

A Bugatti car and two vintage motor-cycles have been given to the government in lieu of tax of £153,000, Tim Renton, the arts minister, announced.

Royal assent

Royal assent for the London Underground (Safety Measures) Act was announced.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be: Monday: Transport and works bill, second reading. Tuesday: Prison security bill, second reading. Wednesday: Debate on the common agricultural policy. Thursday: Debate on Opposition motion on the economy. Friday: Private member's motion on regional government. The main business in the Lords is expected to be:

Monday: Local government bill, committee, first day. Tuesday: Local government committee, second day. Wednesday: Debate on Gatt talks. Boxing bill, second reading. Thursday: Local government bill, committee, third day.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on private member's motion on employment.

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Spread it on your toast at breakfast or your vegetables over dinner. (Or, dare we suggest, try using it instead of for your baking.)

Then close your eyes and open your mouth.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, we rest our case.



America takes to dumping granny

San Francisco: One elderly woman was left sitting in a hospital driveway as a car sped away; another was wheeled into an emergency room with a note pinned to her handbag saying: "Please take care of her." Casualty department workers call it "granny dumping", a phenomenon they say is becoming familiar across the United States as families crumble under the strain of caring for relatives who are living longer than ever.

An informal survey by the American College of Emergency Physicians attracted 169 responses from casualty departments across the country, reporting an average of eight abandonments a week.

No contest



London: Ladbrokes yesterday called off all betting on this year's Christmas top hit when Queen announced plans to release "Bohemian Rhapsody" on December 9. After the death from AIDS of Freddie Mercury, above, the band's best-known single is certain to head the charts.

Rabies alert

Vienna: Authorities ordered dogs to be muzzled and kept on a leash in its Floridsdorf suburb on the east bank of the Danube after a rabid fox was shot dead in the district. A city ordinance also said cars should be kept indoors until the alert is lifted. (Reuters)

Yoga banned

Devon: The Rev Peter Gregson, vicar of Ashburton in Devon, and his parish church council have banned yoga from their church hall for being "incompatible with the Christian faith". Now the dozen women who use the hall for yoga sessions been told to find another venue.

'Free' service

Sydney: Foreign tourists in Australia are leaving behind millions of dollars worth of unpaid hospital bills, according to Dr Bernie Amos, director-general of the New South Wales Health Department, who said that hospitals in his state were the main targets. (Reuters)

Must work even harder, judges tell stunned Japanese

GREY-faced and hollow-eyed, Japanese office workers left their offices for home close to midnight last night looking rather more haggard than normal. In a brief respite from their day's work, they had read in the evening papers about yesterday's supreme court ruling that the dismissal of a worker who had refused to work overtime was legal.

After a series of district court and high court rulings and appeals over 24 years, Judge Iwao Yotsuya rejected a final appeal by Hideyuki Tanaka, a former employee of Hitachi's Musashi factory in Tokyo, who was dismissed in 1967 after he refused to comply with his employer's demand that he work overtime. Although the law does not normally entitle employers to force employees to work overtime, Judge Yotsuya said that, in cases where there is an agreement between management and unions, employees have an obligation to undertake overtime work. But in Japanese companies, where the union leader often doubles as company president and unions restrict their strikes to police sit-ins in a back room during the lunch-hour, such agreements are meaningless.

"Like many of Japan's laws, this one is deliberately unclear. Today's decision was

Japanese employers have been given carte blanche by the law to force office staff to work overtime, reports Joanna Pittman

wrong because Japanese workers will now be unable to refuse overtime and the incidence of *karoshi* (death from overwork) will rise further," said Hiroshi Kawahito, a lawyer who has worked with the families of *karoshi* victims. One in four white collar workers now fears death from overwork, according to a recent Tokyo survey by Nippon Kayaku, a medicine manufacturer. More than 2,000 cases have been reported since Mr Kawahito set up a specialist *karoshi* counselling centre.

Under pressure from American and other foreign trade negotiators, who have cited long working hours as one of Japan's unfair trade barriers, the government has done much to lower official working hours. According to the labour ministry, the average Japanese employee worked 2,044 hours in 1990, down 32 hours from 1989, but still 400 hours more than his American or European counterpart.

But, when corporate Japan began to cut back its official working hours with its much trumpeted policy of closing

offices on Saturdays and Sundays, it also scrapped a system offering six days a year of special vacations earmarked for weddings, birthdays and other special occasions. Fuji Bank employees, for example, gained a decadent four hours a year — an extra five minutes free a week.

Worse still, obligatory overtime was introduced to make up for the lost official working hours. "Overtime" has become something of a dirty word for Japan's corporate warriors, some of whom slog away at their desks for an additional 100 hours a month. Their employers, fearing legal complications, mark down such overtime in the records as 30 hours, and also pay for only 30. Mr Tanaka's case has given credibility to employees' fears of dismissal or blocked promotion if they refuse.

"Working 100 overtime hours a month to be paid for 30 is very common. And it is unusual for people really to have Saturdays and Sundays off, particularly middle management, because they are expected to continue their work at home using a word processor," said Mr Kawahito. "Clearly the supreme court has favoured big business and believes economic power comes from overtime. It has given priority to the economy over human life."



Royal royalties: Princess Michael of Kent launching her novel, *Cupid and the King*, based on five women who became courtesans

Learning at home without tears

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ANGELA White, aged 14, who sat in the public gallery yesterday watching prime minister's question time, did so with a clear conscience about her absence from lessons. Angela, from Exhall, Warwickshire, is among a growing number of children taught at home, and her trip to Westminster was the latest stage in her one-teenager campaign to persuade legislators that education need not be confined to the classroom.

Her lobbying has already made some headway. Letters to John Major, reminding him that his schooldays were hardly the happiest of his life, and Francis Maude, her local MP, brought the invitation to visit the Commons and a robust ministerial defence of the legal right of parents to tutor their children at home.

Not that Angela is entirely satisfied with the statement by Michael Fallon, the schools minister, saying that parents can keep their children from school provided that they fulfil the legal duty to give them a full-time education suited to their age, ability and aptitude. She wants the government to do more to publicise an alternative promoted by the self-help group Education Otherwise and enjoyed by some 8,000 children.

"They could put it in the parent's charter and they could have more debates on home education," Angela says. "Their debates are all about school, but school is not all about education."

Sue White, Angela's mother and mentor, said that her daughter suffers from "school phobia" and was forced to withdraw her from the local comprehensive earlier this year after her chronic anxiety made her so ill that she needed hospital treatment. Mrs White, a part-time librarian, teaches Angela some subjects at home and employs tutors to cover topics including mathematics and French.

Jane Lowe, publicity officer for Education Other-



Angela: "School is not all about education"

wise, says that Angela's background places her in one of the two main groups of children being educated at home. The first includes people like herself, who are former teachers, who revel in her children's company and learning with them. Angela falls into the second category, children who suffer at school because of bullying or because they develop an inexplicable fear of the classroom.

Maxwell's yacht goes on sale

By ALAN HAMILTON

ROBERT Maxwell's yacht, the 180ft Lady Ghislaine, from which he fell to his death on November 5, is for sale, and offers in the region of £14 million are invited. Should that be a little on the steep side, then a bargain can be had in Piraeus, where the Greek government is preparing to auction the late Aristotle Onassis' 300ft floating palace, the Christina, for a mere £8.5 million.

Recession notwithstanding, the second-hand big boat market is remarkably buoyant. Nicholas Baker, of the yacht broker Camper and Nicholson, one of the agents handling the Maxwell sale, said yesterday that the top end of the market, for yachts of 100ft and above, was still "fairly strong", and had not been seriously affected by the current chill economic breeze.

A Dutch-built 140ft motor cruiser was sold only four weeks ago for \$13.5 million to an anonymous buyer. But you have to watch what you are buying. Anyone interested in the Christina should note that the Greek government has decided to unscrow and keep Mr Onassis's gold bath taps.

PEOPLE

Recordin' Norman

Norman Schwarzkopf, the retired four-star general and commander of the Gulf War's Operation Desert Storm, has turned recording star. He recently served as narrator for a new recording by the St Louis Symphony Orchestra of Aaron Copland's *A Lincoln Portrait*, which is to be released on February 11, the day before Lincoln's birthday. A spokesman for RCA, who expects the compact disc to be a best-seller, said: "Schwarzkopf did a fantastic job. He was a natural."

Marion's daughter Cheyenne Braudo, charged with complicity in the murder of her lover, Dag Drollet, has been released from police custody in the Tahitian hospital where she has been held since November 19. Cheyenne's lawyer told reporters that his client was released on condition that she report regularly to police in Tahiti until her trial. No date for the trial has been set.

Randy Jackson, a member of the musical Jackson family, surrendered on Wednesday to begin a 30-day term at a guarded counselling facility for beating his wife. Elizabeth Shaffy Jackson, his estranged wife, who had expected her 30-year-old husband to go to jail, said she was disappointed. "I feel like I'm standing up for the rights of all

Twelve students from Oxford University have taken a bronze bust of Edward Heath, the former prime minister, in protest at his views over Europe. The group, calling themselves the 22nd of November Group named after Margaret Thatcher's resignation day, stole the bust from the Oxford Union.

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Threat to peace negotiations

Israel struggles to break out of trap

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM
AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ISRAEL struggled to extricate itself yesterday from the self-dug diplomatic hole into which it has plunged by refusing to attend the next round of Middle East peace talks in Washington on Wednesday.

Bush administration officials believe the whole peace process has been placed in serious jeopardy by Israel's demand for a five-day postponement. However, they appear to be banking on an Israeli climbdown.

The administration's view is that Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, has refused to resume negotiations next Wednesday to demonstrate that his government cannot be dictated to, and to protest against his treatment in Washington last week. He was not consulted or informed before the administration issued invitations to all the participants to attend next week's talks.

Like President Bush, James Baker is said to be furious at Israel's latest move and has reportedly made no attempt to contact Mr Shamir. America was yesterday celebrating its Thanksgiving holiday, and for the moment the secretary of state seems ready to let the Israeli government consider the full implications of its decision and let Israeli domestic criticism mount.

To the delight of the four Arab participants, all of whom have agreed to attend, Israel's normally persuasive

government spokesmen struggled yesterday to find reasons why the Jewish state's 43-year declared search for dialogue with its neighbours was now impossible because of such procedural technicalities as timing and location.

Benjamin Netanyahu, normally Israel's most convincing debater, appeared tongue-tied when he was asked by Israel radio how the world would react to the sight of Arab negotiators in place in Washington next week beside an empty table where the Israelis should be. "We will have to explain that this is not an empty table but one that will soon be joined [by us]," he said. "We are not asking anybody to accept terms or conditions, we are simply saying we need time to prepare. I frankly find this whole question quite peculiar and I think misplaced."

However, an astute master of the media like Mr Netanyahu will not have failed to appreciate the propaganda coup which Israel has handed to its traditional foe. Ironically, earlier this month he and other Israeli officials attending the Madrid peace talks were not slow to capitalise on Syria's absence during the first bilateral round.

Israel's apparent stalling was put into perspective by Reuven Merhav, the recently retired director-general of the foreign ministry, who called the delay a mistake and said

that Israel appeared to be going back on its promise to meet Arabs "at any time in any place".

The real reason for Israel's continued reluctance to travel to the capital of its closest and most generous ally was hinted at by Yossi Ben-Aharon, the director-general of the prime minister's office, when he admitted that the Israeli government feared pressure from America to make concessions. "We must stand by the position we presented, to stand on the negotiations taking place in the region, that they be direct and that there won't be the involvement of a third party — that is the United States — in the substance of the negotiations," he said.

● Jerusalem: Yisrael Kessar, aged 60, who, as head of the Histadrut federation is Israel's most prominent trade union leader, announced yesterday that he would challenge Shimon Peres for leadership of the main opposition Labour party. (Reuters)

Islamic divide unveiled in Kuwait

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN CAIRO

A BAN on women students wearing the veil in Kuwait University's faculty of medicine has highlighted a dispute over Islamic social customs, increasingly becoming the main postwar issue in the traumatised Gulf emirate.

The ban, imposed on Monday, immediately led to a strike among angry students who described it as "an interference with their personal freedom which Islam guarantees for everybody". The action widened divisions between Kuwaitis who are eager to embrace a more liberal society and others who want to impose a stricter Islamic code.

Days before the ban was imposed, another controversy was provoked when in a local television interview a teenage Kuwaiti girl declared boldly that she saw nothing wrong with "hanging out" with her boyfriends in public. This trend is increasingly prevalent along Kuwait City's rebuilt waterfront strip with its fast-food restaurants and where sleek sports cars are regularly parked.

Since the end of the Gulf war, there has been an attempt to create a version of the *mutawana*, the religious police that operates in Saudi Arabia, where Islamic codes are rigorously imposed, but so far the Kuwaiti efforts have failed. One recent visitor recalled that when a bearded Islamic guardian told a Kuwaiti woman that she could not enter the local supermarket in her jeans she told him to "drop dead" and swept past him unconcerned.

University officials claimed that the dean revived a 1983 rule prohibiting the veil or the *niqab* after walking into a laboratory and seeing a student's garment dragging on a cadaver. "It is completely un-



Campus conflict: Kuwaiti students are torn between liberal ideas and a religious code

sanitary and unacceptable," Dr Abdel Latif al-Bader, dean's assistant, said. "How can a patient take off his clothes to be examined by a veiled woman doctor? How can he have confidence in his doctor if he can't see her face?"

Only a handful of the 423 students wear the *niqab*, which hooks over the nose and ears and when worn with a headscarf covers everything but the eyes. Wearing the veil is not mandatory in Islamic tradition but is considered an act of modesty.

The Kuwaiti students' union took objection to the ban. In a statement it said: "Preventing veiled stu-

dents continuing their studies for a reason which does not conflict with the search for knowledge is prejudiced and wrong ... All this commotion is not for a crime they have committed or for falling behind in their studies, but because of adherence to modesty."

The fundamentalist trend has been fuelled by the return of about 300,000 Kuwaitis from Saudi Arabia, where many of them spent the Gulf war months. "Most Kuwaitis stayed in Saudi Arabia for more than a year, so it infected them, it got into their habits," Najla al-Aysadhi, a fifth-year medical student, said.

Those advocating a liberal era had taken refuge in the West or had stayed put and fought against the Iraqi invaders. They crave after Western fashions and want freer alcohol laws. "We did not have our freedom during the occupation, so we want our freedom now," Hamad Qunoon, aged 17, said.

The veil ban has exacerbated the debate over women's right to vote. The issue is expected to dominate the run-up to the first postwar elections scheduled for next October.

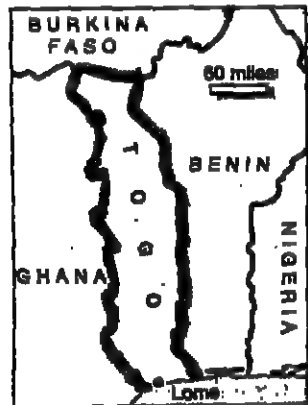
Kenyans call for UK help

FROM SAM KILEY
IN NAIROBI

KENYA'S opposition yesterday called for British police to return to pursue investigations into the murder last year of Robert Ouko, the foreign minister, alleging that Kenyan police were involved in a cover-up.

The call came after President Moi asked his attorney-general to drop charges against four key members of the opposition, including Oginga Odinga, the former vice-president. The four were arrested earlier this month for organising a pro-democracy rally which the government said was illegal. The reprieve was seen as a start to opening a dialogue between President Moi and the pro-democracy groups.

The opposition Forum for the Restoration of Democracy, a pressure group campaigning for pluralism in one-party Kenya, also urged President Moi to reopen a judicial enquiry into the Ouko killing, which he abruptly stopped on Tuesday after it raised damaging allegations of government corruption.



Fighting sharpens in Togo

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AT least 15 people were reported killed as troops loyal to the president in the West African state of Togo yesterday continued their attempt to overthrow the pro-democracy prime minister, appointed in August, and return to President Eyadema the authoritarian powers, stripped from him then, which he had enjoyed for 24 years.

Joseph Koffigoh, the prime minister, was besieged in the prime minister's palace in the capital, Lomé, by troops who had surrounded it with tanks, but an attempt to enter the palace was repulsed. With Mr Koffigoh was Bruno Delahaye, the French ambassador in Lomé, who had ignored the rebels' order that all diplomats stay at home. Mr Koffigoh said that the move by the army amounted to a coup and called for support from the country's democratic forces.

Previous military rebellions since August were met with street demonstrations by supporters of the democratisation process, which has been trying to put a permanent end to more than two decades of military rule.

Disunity of blacks hits talks

FROM GAVIN BELL
IN JOHANNESBURG

MOST of South Africa's political leaders meet today to begin drafting a post-apartheid constitution. But squabbling between the principal participants on the eve of the two-day preparatory conference of 22 organisations suggested there would be hard bargaining about the agenda and chairmanship of the constitutional negotiations that are to begin next month.

In deference to demands by anti-apartheid groups for a neutral venue, the preliminaries are taking place at a hotel at Jan Smuts airport, outside Johannesburg. By last night they had still not agreed on a chairman.

Temper was frayed by a row between the African National Congress and its new-found ally, the Pan Africanist Congress, over apparently unfounded allegations that the ANC had struck a secret deal with the ruling National party to form an interim government early next year.

Also yesterday, the far-right Conservative party was confident of demonstrating white support for its decision to boycott the talks by capturing a National party seat in a parliamentary by-election at Virginia in the Orange Free State.

The radical Pan Africanist Congress, which joined the ANC in a "Patriotic Front" of anti-apartheid groups last month, threatened to wreck the alliance by accusing its partner of dropping its insistence on an elected constituent assembly in exchange for a role in government. The allegations were promptly and strongly denied by both Pretoria and the ANC.

It happened unsung in Monterrey

FROM ANDREA DABROWSKI IN MEXICO CITY

THE title of the article read simply "Goodbye." The content, however, was unusual: its author, the head of a leading newspaper in northern Monterrey, announced his resignation this week due to government pressures and economic reprisals against his family-owned newspaper. Press censorship here is a fact of life, Jesús Canto's story was just run of the mill. What was unusual was that he had the courage to tell it.

Señor Canto, who ran his family's paper for ten years, wrote that he "lived through everything, from threats to physical attacks against members of my family". In May 1989, six months after President Salinas de Gortari took office, *El Porvenir* published a letter sent in by a reader which was critical of the president.

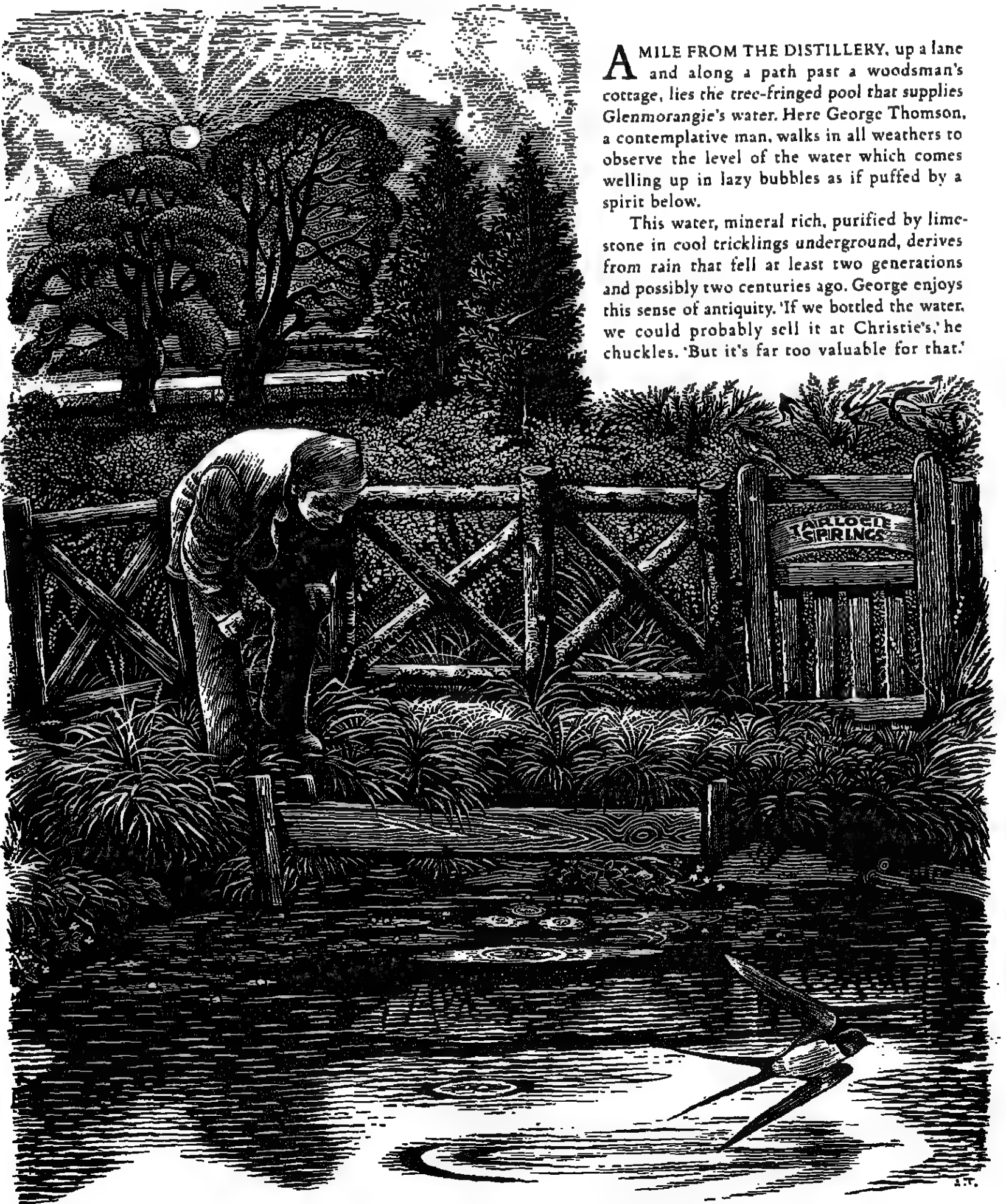
Señor Canto was called in to the General Directorate of Social Communication of the President of the Republic, whose task is to preserve the president's image and control information, and told "respect for the ground rules" he must follow. From then the pressure was on, with cancellation of advertising and printing contracts that led the paper into financial straits.

Earlier this year Raúl Cremona, a columnist in the daily *Excelsior*, was kidnapped, threatened and told to "stop writing against the president". When he publicly denounced the kidnapping, his family was threatened. An estimated 42 journalists have been killed in Mexico since 1982. But across the border in America little attention is being paid.

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A MILE FROM THE DISTILLERY, up a lane and along a path past a woodsman's cottage, lies the tree-fringed pool that supplies Glenmorangie's water. Here George Thomson, a contemplative man, walks in all weathers to observe the level of the water which comes welling up in lazy bubbles as if puffed by a spirit below.

This water, mineral rich, purified by limestone in cool tricklings underground, derives from rain that fell at least two generations and possibly two centuries ago. George enjoys this sense of antiquity. 'If we bottled the water, we could probably sell it at Christie's,' he chuckles. 'But it's far too valuable for that.'

HANDCRAFTED BY THE SIXTEEN MEN OF TAIN.

EC's poorer states seek better deal Spain raises threat of Maastricht veto

By FRANK SMITH

FELIPE González, the Spanish prime minister, in a rare parliamentary appearance yesterday, refused to rule out a veto at the Maastricht summit next month if southern members of the EC were denied a special fund by their richer northern neighbours.

"We are going to make an effort to reach an agreement," Señor González said. "But let's make it quite clear, that agreement has to be satisfactory. If we don't arrive at a satisfactory agreement, we will not accept the results."

As the EC, in John Major's words, edges towards agreement at Maastricht, Spanish demands for a better deal are emerging as yet another obstacle. The poorer members of the community — Portugal, Greece and Ireland — have all rallied to the Spanish banner.

All want to see signs that the benefits of a more integrated Europe will not be only for the better developed regions but will reach those parts of the EC, particularly

on its southern flank, which believe they are currently getting a raw deal. Carlos Solchaga, Spain's finance minister, complains that the community budget discriminates against the poorer members, both in how money is collected and spent.

The Spaniards claim that the less developed countries are penalised because the community budget is based largely on indirect taxes, like VAT, and consumption is proportionately greater in the poorer countries. Programmes like the common agricultural policy favour the richer members of the EC.

In the run-up to Maastricht, the Spaniards are demanding a fairer system of contributions to the budget and are rallying their supporters with the simple battle cry "cohesion", by which they mean the rich in the community should come to the aid of the poor.

The man doing Spain's thinking on this issue is Carlos Westendorp, its minister

for Europe. He negotiated Spanish accession to the community in the mid-1980s and knows how to drive a hard bargain. To him, it is necessary for the EC to compensate for the gaps in wealth and development between regions from the north and south, between the periphery and the centre. If it does not, he says, the internal market will not work.

According to Señor Westendorp, the present community budget, at 1.2 per cent of the gross domestic product of member states, is too little to generate the sort of money which would be meaningful as a cohesion fund.

Instead, he favours setting up what he calls "an inter-state compensation fund". This would involve treating member countries as if they were already part of a federal state, as happens in the United States or Germany.

Leading article, page 19
Letters, page 19



Minds on Maastricht: Andreotti, left, the Italian leader, and Kohl, the German chancellor, meeting in Bonn yesterday on the EC summit

Chat line video gets blame for murders

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON
IN PARIS

THE arrest of a man from the Paris suburbs who lured homosexuals to a violent death after making contact through a videotext service provided by France's Minitel network has renewed controversy about state involvement in this immensely profitable business.

Earlier this week, police charged René Roy, aged 33, with three killings and the attempted murder of a fourth man whom he also met with the help of Télécom's messageries roses.

Several other incidents have been linked to the system — a kind of sexual chat-line allowing people of like mind and inclination to get together — which amply demonstrated the potential danger for abuse. The Roy case is certain to increase pressure from French family associations to bring Télécom to court for *provençalisme*, or living off immoral earnings.

Although Télécom has always insisted that its Minitel Rose channels exclude those attempting to provide "licentious services", Roy's experience suggests otherwise. He was able to tap into a network of sadomasochists seeking suitable partners as easily as an engineer from Nice who, four years ago, contacted a local woman interested in sexual bondage.

After Minitel had brought them together, she was subjected to a terrifying five day ordeal, drugged and subjected to sadistic acts, before she managed to escape. When that case came to court, it emerged that the same man had raped and assaulted three other women with whom he had previously made contact via the messageries roses.

Among opponents of these services in France, there has been particular concern about the potential risk posed to the great many children who already know how to tap into Minitel in search of their favourite computer games. According to protest groups, the level of calls to Minitel's sexual outlets rises sharply on Wednesday afternoons, when most state schools are closed and working parents were not yet home.

If René Roy's fourth victim had not miraculously survived a terrible battering to provide police with invaluable leads, it is entirely possible the killer would still be at large, hunting further contacts over Minitel's networks.

Iran to receive \$278m from US

Washington — The Bush administration was yesterday reported to have reached an agreement to pay Iran \$278 million (£157 million) in compensation for undelivered American military equipment ordered by the Shah of Iran before he was toppled in the 1979 Islamic revolution (Martin Fletcher writes).

The agreement closely followed the release of hostages. Terry Waite and Thomas Sutherland by Iranian-backed groups in Lebanon, and America's apparent exoneration of both Iran and Syria for the Lockerbie bombing, but officials strongly deny any connection. The agreement, reported by *The New York Times*, is another step towards resolving outstanding Iranian claims.

Citizens again

Moscow: A law passed by the Russian parliament declares all people living in the Russian Federation as its citizens and restores citizenship to 175 exiled writers and artists and 400,000 Jews who emigrated to Israel. (AFP)

Poet's justice

Havana: The Cuban poet, María Elena Cruz Varela, has been jailed for two years for "unlawful association and defamation". Three other members of the dissident movement, *Alternativa Crítica*, which called for reforms, were also jailed. (AFP)

Two hanged

Delhi — A man and his father were hanged yesterday, the first time in India's history a parent was sent to the gallows with his son. Shoban, aged 65, and Rang, aged 35, were hanged for the murder of seven of their relatives in a property dispute. (Reuters)

Kurdish offer

Istanbul: Kurdish separatists fighting in the southeast of Turkey have reportedly held out an olive branch to the newly elected Turkish government, by saying they will demonstrate their good faith in return for a radical change on policies in the southeast.

Smoke signal

Rome: Italy is to introduce tough no-smoking rules, Francesco De Lorenzo, the health minister, announced. Smoking will be banned in shops, offices and waiting rooms at airports and railway stations. Transgressors could face fines of £96. (Reuters)

Sweden confronts welfare upheaval

FROM TONY SAMSTAG IN STOCKHOLM

AFTER barely two months in office, Carl Bildt, the new conservative prime minister of Sweden, boasts that he has consigned the so-called Swedish model of socialism to "the scrapheap of history". In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Bildt says that gone are the notions of convergence, compromise or the "third road".

This is a relatively modest way of discussing a four-point programme that has been described as "visionary" by some Nordic commentators. Mr Bildt defines it as "four priority areas for the government, the first of these being European policy. We want Sweden to become as soon as possible a full partner in the process of European integration".

The second major task is the economy, where we have been slipping behind the other major Western European economies in terms of growth and development during the past two decades, very obviously during the latter part of the 1980s," he said. "We must bring growth back into the Swedish economy — otherwise we are going to face very severe long-term problems when it comes down to the financing of our welfare systems and when it comes to providing job opportunities."

Thirdly, there is the reform of our rather elaborate welfare systems. They were built in a special way over a very long time. They tend to be very centralistic, very monopolistic, very monopolistic and plagued by cost and quality problems. We have to start to reform them. We have talked about a "revolution of choice" in the welfare system, and that will go on during the Nineties."

Fourth and finally, like any government that hopes to stay in power these days, Mr Bildt is keen on protecting the environment. "We gradually want to transform Sweden from a society in an

industrial structure — that is energy consuming, raw material consuming — to an industrial-economic structure that is less dependent upon high consumption of raw materials and energy, and accordingly more friendly towards the environment."

In style no less than substance, Mr Bildt's policy statements strike a new note in Nordic government. Conspicuous by their absence, for example, are references to such Social Democratic slogans as solidarity, collectivity and equality. Replacing them are the solid Tory virtues (largely unfamiliar to most Scandinavians) of choice, enterprise and privatisation.

Centralised pay bargaining is to go, along with government incomes policies and intervention in wage negotiations. Reduction or abolition of unpopular taxes, such as turnover tax on share transactions and VAT on hotel and restaurant services are already under way, while ambitious reforms in health and education are being described, perhaps a shade optimistically, as a "revolution by choice in welfare policy", rather than a dismantling of the welfare system — on the principle that the welfare state can finance a service without necessarily providing the service itself.

Of the late "Swedish model", Mr Bildt says: "I've never been quite certain what it really was. In the Social Democratic rhetoric there was certainly this idea of Sweden as some kind of middle road between the East and the West, between a socialist planned economy and the free-market economy of the West, and to a certain extent you can say that some of the faults we had in Swedish social and political development during the past 20 years was the result of that middle of the road approach. That is certainly gone."

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Night bombardment lays waste to Osijek hospital

IN OSJEK hospital's cardiac and pulmonary wing, the main staircase is strewn with rubble. A pair of slippers lies where their fleeing owner left them as he fell to the floor. On the landing is a pool of fresh blood; the walls all around are also splattered.

The hospital was hit in a bombardment of artillery and mortar fire during one of the nightly raids on the city which has become the federal army's prime target in eastern Croatia.

Two direct hits from the Serb-held territory a mile away across the Drava river have turned the building into a shell. Four patients were killed as the roof collapsed on them while they tried to flee from their beds into the basement. Another three patients and a hospital technician were injured.

Ivan Zulj, the hospital's chief consultant, wears a dazed expression as "broom in hand" he leads us through the ankle-deep glass and concrete littering the building. He has spent the morning removing his remaining 30 patients. "We are directly in the firing line here," he said, pointing through the paneless window to the riverbank where the Serb irregulars lurk. "We always presumed that they would aim over our

The federal army has abandoned all restraint in its drive to crush Croatia.

The only rule is that there are no rules, Anne McElvoy writes from Osijek

heads, because we are not a war hospital here just a normal unit. But now everything is a target in Osijek. The only rule is that there are no rules at all."

All of the windows are shattered, the facade of the 19th-century building pockmarked. The entrance is reached by negotiating a twisted metal wreck of a portal which sways dangerously above the main door.

Outside a 2ft crater and a fallen tree bear testimony to the impact. Osijek is being pounded into submission by an army which has abandoned all restraint in its enthusiasm to turn this cathedral town of 120,000 inhabitants into its next trophy in the sweep through eastern Croatia.

In the night from Wednesday to Thursday, 32 rockets and 12 grenades hit one residential area within 45 minutes, bringing an entire block of flats crashing to the ground. Nineteen people were killed.

Arriving unscathed in the

centre of the town is these days a matter of careful timing and crossed fingers. The attacks can begin at any time and last for up to ten hours at a stretch. The population has accustomed itself to an underground existence, scurrying across the market place above the subterranean shelter to gather supplies in the rare hours of calm.

Even then the air crackles with fearful expectation. The women hurry with loaded bags, cars career unevenly around the blasted streets, their drivers listening for the beginning of the low rumble which is the inevitable overture to a fresh barrage.

Beside the defiant Croatian flag, the town hall is flying a black flag of mourning. The underground shopping centre houses rows of canvas beds. A sign at one exit still points to the "Bulevar JNA" (boulevard of the federal army), which is painfully ironic considering that this same army is blasting the city to bits.

More than half the popula-

tion has left, including the 25 per cent who are Serbs. Women and children are still being offered the chance to flee, but men of call-up age are not. There are tales of mothers packing their sons into their car boots to speed them away before the final battle.

Dr Zulj sleeps three hours a night as he tries to maintain a normal medical service. His eyes are red-rimmed with fatigue. His own home is in the firing line from the Serb stronghold of Tenje. "I hear the mortars every night. They drop beside my house, in front of it and behind it and I wonder how long it will be until it ends up looking like the hospital."

He is pragmatic about Osijek's chances of surviving the campaign. Nobody talks of victory around here anymore. "If the army really wants Osijek, then they will take it," he said. "But what can you do but fight for your home? We will never flee. We still have our pride."

At Cepin, the garrison town eight miles away, the Croatian militia men holding the main route out of Osijek into Croatia can barely mask their despair at the advance of Serbian forces into their territory. The villages of Ernestinovo and Laslovo on the



Rescue mission: Croatian troops evacuating injured children from Osijek

main parallel road fell last week, leaving the base in the enemy's artillery range.

Fifty mortars fell on it on Tuesday and Wednesday. The fighters here are a mix-

ture of regular national guard and ultra-nationalist HOS forces but have worked well together in the defence of Osijek's southern flank.

But, since the fall of Vuk-

ovar and the steady creep westwards by the army and the irregular forces, the mood is bleak.

"We can only hope to hold out now for a political sol-

ution," said Drazan, the second-in-command. "We simply don't have the weapons and we're losing the ground from which to defend ourselves."

The fighting talk of a month ago has gone. In October he had proudly produced maps and discussed holding strategies. Asked now how things are he replied simply, "terrible". Then he shrugged. "The other side have some problems of morale but they have so much technical superiority that it doesn't matter."

Even the hardest of Croatia's HOS men now talk of a United Nations peacekeeping force or a big European Community policy shift as their only hope to keep hold of the region. They know that militarily they are incapable of preventing the army sweeping through it and linking up with Serb areas along the central front, then carrying on to Karlovac and so to the coast. Once that is achieved, Croatia is cut in two and defeated.

The army's victories are coming with increasing ease. Laslovo, Drazan said, fell to a mere five tanks and is completely flattened. The population has fled. The net is closing in on eastern Croatia.

British mercenary, page 1

Moscow coffers emptying

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet state may not have enough money to pay the army and other central government organs from Monday, according to warnings issued yesterday by the central bank after parliament failed to pass an emergency budget.

Another of the Soviet Union's top financial institutions, the Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs (Vneshekonombank), said it had already suspended payments from the accounts of Soviet state agencies and also stopped repayments on some non-guaranteed loans.

A senior official of Gosbank, the central monetary authority, said that, as long as parliament refused to approve an emergency financing of 90.5 billion roubles (officially £90 billion) "... there will be no alternative but to suspend as from Monday all disbursements on the account of the union budget, including those for the army and for parliament".

A stopgap budget, mostly made up of money already spent, was later passed by one chamber of the parliament, the Council of the Republic, while the Council of Union, was without a quorum.

Even before yesterday's debate, the powerful Russian Republic had said that it would not approve financing for any emergency government. It had been assumed that any extra spending by central authorities would be added to the national debt, which will eventually be parcelled out among the republics.

Ossetian city ringed by tanks

FROM AFP IN MOSCOW

THOUSANDS of Georgian troops backed by tanks and armoured vehicles yesterday surrounded the South Ossetian city of Tskhinvali, hours after the region's assembly proclaimed it an independent republic, the Interfax news agency reported.

The deployment, involving 17,000 soldiers, appeared to herald a possible attack on the capital, Interfax added. Several hundred people have been killed since fighting between Georgian and Ossetian nationalists - who want the region to merge with North Ossetia - erupted last December. South Ossetia is an autonomous part of Georgia; North Ossetia is an autonomous part of the Russian Federation.

The South Ossetian assembly yesterday proclaimed the region an independent republic, decreed a state of emergency and a general mobilisation, and named Znaur Gassiyev as prime minister and president of the new parliament, Interfax said. President Gamsakhurdia of Georgia, who was elected in November 1990, has declared his own republic independent but has rejected South Ossetia's bid for secession. He abolished the region's autonomous status in December.

● **Referendum date:** The regional council in Nagorno-Karabakh, where a majority of the population is ethnic Armenian, has decided to hold a referendum at the end of December on the territory's future status, Russian television reported.

Ukraine pricked by Crimea thorn

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN SIMFEROPOL

WHEN the powerful Ukraine votes to leave the remnants of the Soviet Union on Sunday, one of the first casualties of the republic's new-found independence is likely to be its borders.

Suspicion of Ukrainian statehood is especially strong in the Russian-dominated Crimea. The hardline and discredited leaders, who played "host" to President Gorbachev during his three days of captivity in the peninsula, are steering the autonomous republic towards a referendum and independence.

Throughout the Soviet Union ethnic Russians, caught on the fringes of the disintegrating empire, are refusing to accept the authority of non-Russian republic governments and are demanding that old union structures be reconstituted, as President Gorbachev, if President Gorbachev, the perestroika and the putsch never happened.

"Stalin was a strong master. We need another master now to unite our land and our people to stop our country disintegrating," said Tatyana Sikoklayeva, a pensioner, one of the throng of hecklers gathered outside Cri-

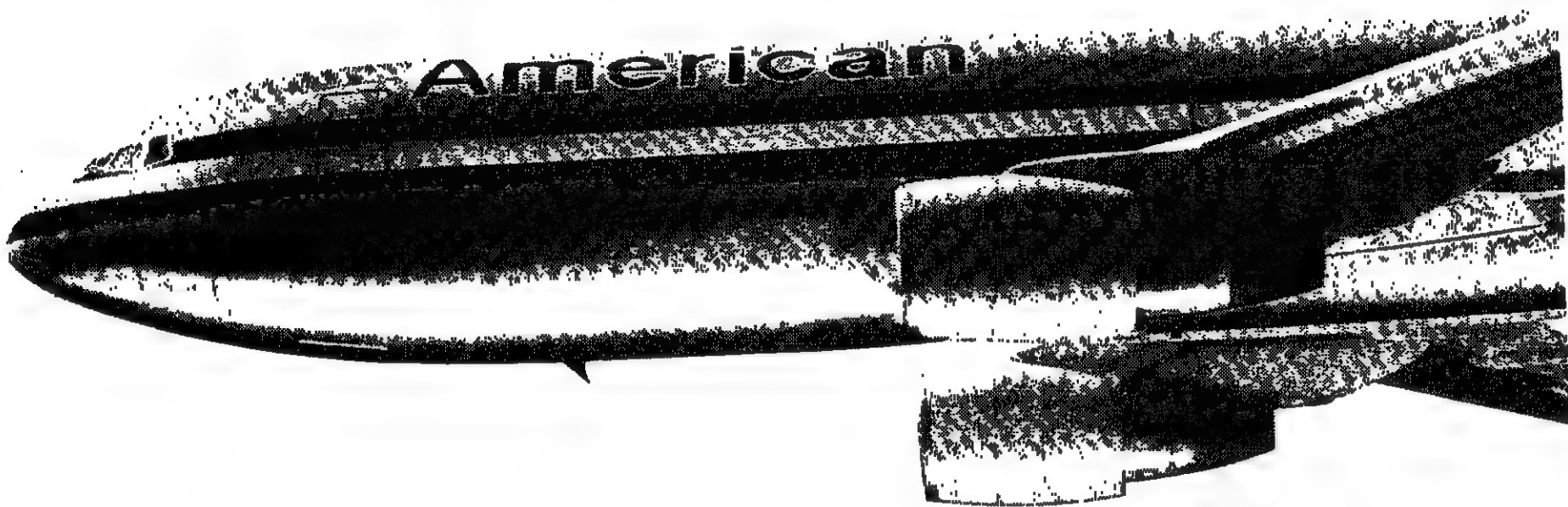
mea's supreme soviet last week to demand a Crimea within Russia.

Independence or the status of a union republic would give apparatchiks in Simferopol, rather than in Kiev or Moscow, control over its highly profitable sanatorium in Yalta and other rest homes along its Black Sea coast. A Crimean privatisation programme, favouring a clique of former Communist party leaders and a constitution, are expected to be presented to the supreme soviet within the next three months.

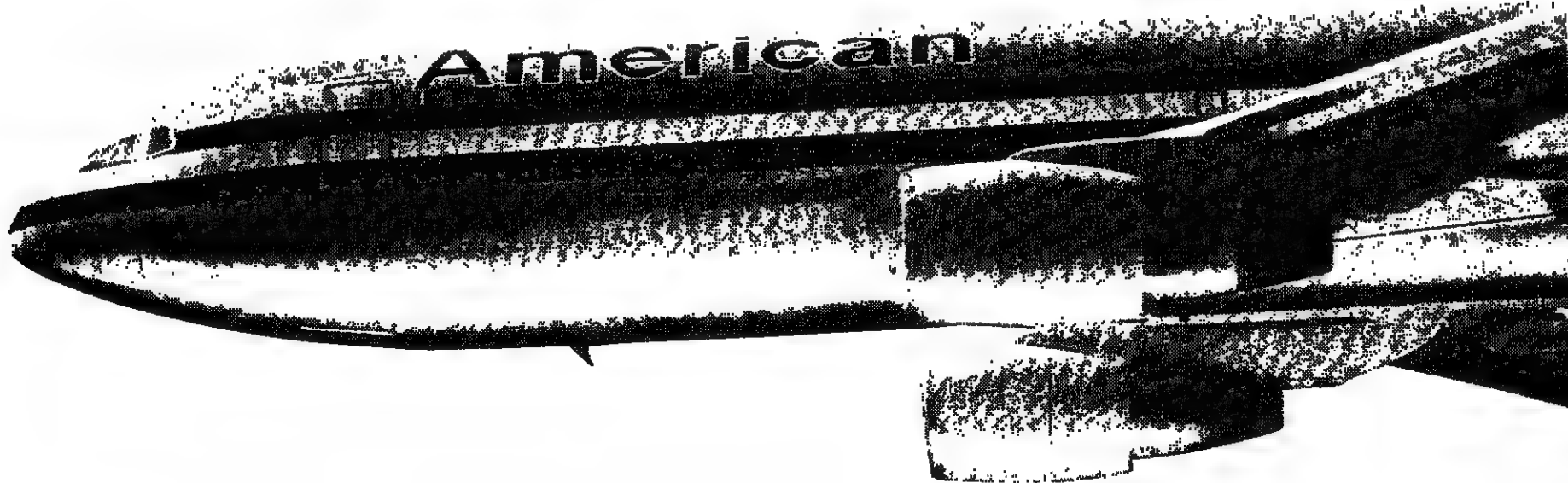
However, the Crimea itself may become a victim of internal conflict as the Tatars, the indigenous population, continue to return to their ancient homeland from Soviet Central Asia. Dotted over a hilltop near Simferopol is one of the Tatars' new housing estates. The hut "village" is illegal and has already been destroyed once by interior ministry troops this year. Although the site is without running water and electricity, the Tatars seem proud to be home after their banishment by Stalin in 1941.

US recognition, page 1

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STOP THE DETENTION!

of political prisoner Mohammed Al-Fassi

**Support
Human
Rights**



**Defend
Democratic
Reforms**

His only crime was speaking out for democracy in Saudi Arabia.

During the Gulf war, Saudi citizen Mohammed Al-Fassi spoke in favor of democratic reforms in Saudi Arabia and delivered emergency food to starving children in Iraq. For these "crimes" Mohammed Al-Fassi was arrested on October 2 in Jordan and turned over to the Saudi government. Based on discussions with people inside the country, we believe that Mohammed Al-Fassi has already been tortured and may be executed at any time.

Since his arrest, "Mohammed Al-Fassi has been held without charge and without being allowed the means to defend himself. He has not been allowed family visits or legal counsel," according to a letter from Middle

East Watch. An *Urgent Appeal* regarding his condition has also been issued by Amnesty International and Article 19.

Amnesty International and other human rights organizations have documented the deaths of at least two political prisoners while in Saudi custody. The fate of numerous others remains unknown.

Over the past several years, we have been witness to remarkable changes throughout the world – and everywhere we have seen people demand respect for human rights and lay down their lives in the cause of democracy. We see now more clearly than we ever have before, that real security for a nation and a government comes not from a closed fist, but from an open heart, not by

exacting revenge but by insuring justice, not from repression but from respect for human rights. There can only be one standard of justice applied equally to everyone.

We are in the midst of an historic peace conference in the Middle East. A peace conference that we hope – and we know these are hopes shared by everyone – where true and lasting peace can be achieved, where long-time enemies can begin to become new friends and where the human rights of every person in the region can be guaranteed.

By releasing Mohammad Al-Fassi, the Saudi government can show not only its own commitment to these principles, but can bring us even closer to their realization.

We demand the release of Mohammed Al-Fassi

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Andrew Amaya
Prof. Khalil Barhoum
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Cambodian factions try to save deal

By JAMES PRINGLE in PHNOM PENH
AND DAVID WATTS in LONDON

THE savage physical attack on Khieu Samphan, the Khmer Rouge political leader, which forced the 60-year-old guerrilla chief to flee to Thailand on Wednesday after only seven hours in Phnom Penh, provoked anger and dismay in Cambodia yesterday that the delicate peace process had been needlessly put in jeopardy.

The Phnom Penh government of Hun Sen, the prime minister, had previously guaranteed the security of Khmer Rouge leaders returning under the terms of the Paris peace accords, and was firmly taken to task.

A foreign ambassador said the diplomatic corps was "pretty angry and pretty disappointed" that what was probably an orchestrated demonstration should have been allowed to get out of hand. The police did little.

Thailand has agreed that the planned meeting of the Supreme National Council, on which are represented all factions in Cambodia — including those four which until recently were at war — will now gather next Wednesday in the resort of Pattaya, on the Gulf of Thailand, instead of in Phnom Penh.

The incident has put China in an awkward position as a key broker of the peace accord, but an important backer of the Khmer Rouge. Peking has to be seen to be sympathetic to the Khmer Rouge leaders but ensure that progress continues towards a peaceful Cambodia and elections in 1993.

"We were shocked to learn of the violent incident and are deeply concerned," Wu Jianmin, the foreign ministry spokesman, said in Peking. The attack on Khieu Samphan and Son Sen had "impeded the implementation of peace agreements".

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the council, sought to be soothing.

"The Khmer Rouge will be back on the day prime minister Hun Sen can give a solid, serious guarantee of safety for them," he told journalists. "I understand quite well the feelings of the people in Phnom Penh, who continue to suffer in their hearts and minds. When they saw the Khmer Rouge leaders they could not refrain from insulting them and taking some form of vengeance."

Reports from Thailand said that, in spite of the mob violence here, the much-feared Khmer Rouge, under whose rule up to a million Cambodians died, had said they would remain in the peace process and that Mr Khieu Samphan would attend the meeting in Pattaya. Phnom Penh's foreign minister, Hor Nhomhong, described the riot, in which Mr Khieu Samphan came within an ace of being lynched, as a "small incident in the way forward".

"We never thought that the people would make such a demonstration," he said. "We thought it would be a very quiet demonstration." But foreign diplomats said they had no doubt that much of what happened, including the ransacking of a Khmer Rouge villa, had been orchestrated by the government.

Some thought that UN peacekeeping forces, who are not expected to deploy here until next February or March, should be brought in much more quickly. At present only about 200 UN troops are in the country, and they are not fully deployed.

Paris: The World Heritage Convention, which was signed yesterday in Phnom Penh by Prince Sihanouk during a meeting with Federico Mayor, director-general of Unesco, brings the Angkor temple complex under international protection, the UN body announced. (AP)

Slum-dwellers cling to the city of darkness

An attempt to clear Hong Kong's no man's land in 1948 led to riots, but now China backs the plan to turn it into a park, Jonathan Braude writes

THE dank, rat-infested alleyways of Hong Kong's Walled City echoed the cries of the British colony's notorious slum dwellers yesterday as police moved in to clear a section for the demolition squads.

To Government House, intent on cleaning up the squalid quarter, the exercise represented the march of progress. For the angry protesters, the last of about 30,000 inhabitants who left their homes defiant, angry and sometimes in tears, it was a sad farewell. Known to local Cantonese-speakers as "the city of darkness", the Walled City is a lawless no-man's-land and a haven for criminals, prostitutes, illegal immigrants and others fleeing both Chinese and British justice.

"The compensation the government is offering couldn't pay for a funeral," Chau Yu-tsai yelled scornfully as he sat on a step after being evicted from his confectionery shop. While the vast majority of the residents of the Walled City have moved out, some 2,700 households and shop-owners have refused to leave their homes on the ground that the compensation being offered by the government is inadequate. "I have eight people in my family. How will we eat?"

Mr Chau, aged 68, asked. He looked dazed as he clutched a bag filled with his possessions and the wooden sign that used to hang over his shop. One man was carried kicking and struggling from his shop as the last residents of the area attempted to defy the forced expulsion. As the evictions began, another resident ran back into the Walled City after police had escorted him out of the slum. He threatened to kill himself by jumping out of a window. His friends calmed him as his wife stood by crying.

Crowds gathered to watch the police erect steel barricades and take positions along the myriad entrances that lead into the maze of winding alleyways. One group of police and government officers surrounded a partly closed storefront for hours, negotiating with the owners to leave quietly.

By late afternoon the officials had cleared, without incident, 49 of about 98 households targeted in the operation's first phase. The remaining residents are scheduled to be evicted by next spring.

By a strange anomaly in the 1993 Convention of Nanking, under which much of Hong Kong was leased to Britain for 100



Wall of protest: a woman screams as officials prepare to evict her from her home in the Walled City, a haven of crime in Hong Kong territory

years, the Walled City was specifically excluded from British rule and remained under the jurisdiction of Chinese officials residing there. But Britain has never acknowledged their claim. Among the vice and opium dens in the Walled City, unlicensed doctors and dentists were able to practise. Chinese Triad gangs ruled

with terror and persuasion, forcing businesses to pay protection money.

Most of the tens of thousands of people who used to live in the ramshackle insanitary structures, thrown together over nearly 100 years, have left. They have accepted government compensation for their lost businesses and have moved into public housing at nominal

rents. Planners are still arguing whether to dismantle the city piece by piece or clear the site in one controlled explosion. It will go unoccupied.

In January 1948 when Britain had tried to expel squatters from the Walled City, the British Consulate in Canton, China, was burnt to the ground. Consul-General Ronald Hall was

chased by an estimated 5,000 Chinese rioters and only narrowly escaped with his life. British businesses in the city were torched and there were more riots in Shanghai and Nanking. Now, however, the Chinese are supporting the clearance of the quarter. With the prospect of inheriting the Walled City with the rest of Hong Kong in 1997, the Chinese authorities have agreed to let Britain turn the site into a recreation park.

The day the agreement was announced in 1986, 400 Hong Kong officials made the first survey of the Walled City, working from door-to-door to register all residents while exits from the area were sealed. It was the first essential step to establish who would benefit from compensation, since there were few documents detailing ownership or title to any of the properties.

Doctors and dentists, unable to practise outside the slum, will now have to take new exams or find an alternative source of income. But for others, life outside the city is simply too expensive.

Chan Wong Yuk-lan, aged 63, used to run a grocery shop in the Walled City for 50 years and has lived alone with her dog since her husband died eight years ago. She said she could not set up business outside the area because the rents were too high and the compensation that she had received was inadequate.

Slum heart, page 17

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Cholera sweeps into Rio

Rio de Janeiro: Cholera, which recently swept through Peru and the Amazon region has reached Rio de Janeiro, medical officials said yesterday (Mac Margolis writes).

They emphasised however that the outbreak was not an epidemic. The news of the first confirmed case came as about 20,000 public health workers in Rio de Janeiro state went on strike to demand higher wages and better conditions.

The disease killed more than 2,400 people in Peru. Later it spread to Ecuador and northern Brazil.

Land seizure

Harare: Zimbabwe is going ahead with plans to nationalise white-owned farm land. The Commercial Farmers' Union said it had been informed that a draft law to effect seizure, with little regard for compensation, was being studied by the cabinet.

Carlos rejected

Paris: Syria tried to expel Ilyich Ramirez Sanchez, known as Carlos, and Ahmed Jibril, two of the world's most wanted terrorists, to Libya in September, but Tripoli refused to accept them, according to a report in Liberation, the French daily. (AFP)

Giddy heights

Sydney: A firm of Australian architects has patented a design for what it claims will be the world's first revolving building. The 30-storey tower, which it hopes to build near the Sydney Opera House, will complete one revolution every two days.

Refugee offer

Manila: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is to give Vietnamese refugees in the Philippines £50 departure money and £30 a month for a year, with job offers, to encourage the 6,300 who do not qualify for residence to return home.

Bolger blow

Wellington: Only 7 per cent of New Zealanders think Jim Bolger, the National party prime minister, should keep his job, according to a New Zealand television opinion poll. This is the lowest recorded for a prime minister since polls began in 1975. (Reuters)

Bombay rids itself of killers

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BOMBAY

Astab Khan, the top police officer in north Bombay, has been deluged with congratulations since gunning down seven contract killers early this month. "It was fun — I enjoyed myself," he said.

He and his 32-strong anti-terrorist squad battled for three hours and 20 minutes with the gangsters, who were meeting in a Bombay house. Their deaths mark a rare victory against the powerful Bombay underworld.

Police said the killers came from the Dawood Ibrahim gang, probably the biggest crime syndicate in India, which is known as D Company. Mr Khan has been seething since seeing Ibrahim on television, sitting in the VIP box at a cricket match in Dubai. "He fled to Dubai in 1986. He is treated like a celebrity. He had a cordless phone in his hand and drives around in a Rolls-Royce."

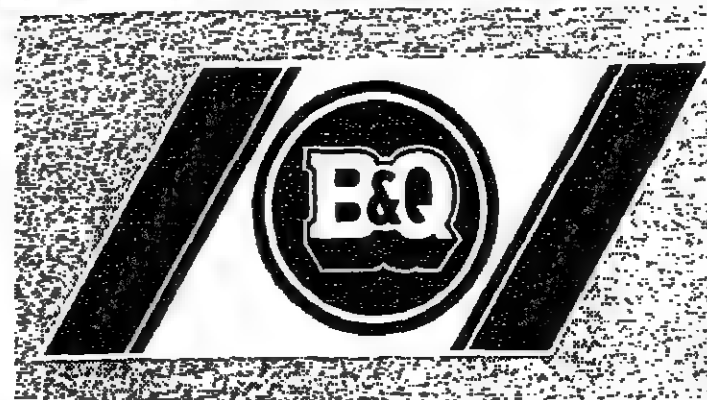
The gang allegedly smuggles massive quantities of Middle East gold into Bombay, directly influencing gold prices, and its activities have given Bombay the reputation of the crime capital of India.

Now the underworld battles are becoming an increasing menace. The Ibrahim gang has traditionally concentrated on gold and silver smuggling, but police say it is now investing heavily in the construction industry. Ibrahim's rival is the Arun Gawli gang and the two mobs frequently kill each other's killers in their battle for supremacy. The Ibrahim gang has remained top dog for years. The Gawli team concentrates more on local racketeering, including kidnapping and extortion.

Despite the successes, Mr Khan acknowledges that it is almost impossible to stop the gold smuggling. "When supplies slow down because of police activities, prices of gold products in the shops skyrocket," he said.

All prices checked on Wednesday 27th November 1991 at the following stores:
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Anthony Scrivener, chairman of the Bar, detests stuffiness. Kate Muir talks to him after his Silcott appeal win

Rumpled radical of the Bailey

A fine name for a lawyer, Scrivener, with its Dickensian undertones of scribe and Scrooge. A name that surely would belong to a small, obsessively neat, radical man: the sort who actually relishes booking interviews close to dawn. Yet the arrival of Anthony Scrivener QC, chairman of the Bar, is not in expected character.

The roar of his silver Mercedes drowns out the patter of the fountain and the bronchial early bird song in the lawns of London's Lincoln's Inn. Nothing can be seen through the blackened windows. Then a long figure unfolds itself from the car, and lopez towards the door.

At close quarters, Mr Scrivener resembles none other than Michael Heseltine, with less hair, but more humour. And his office, far from neat, requires visitors to wade through waist-high piles of legal briefs, photographs from grizzly murders, and courtiers.

This is all most unexpected from the chairman of such a hallowed institution, but overturning expectations is what Mr Scrivener does best. He has just won the appeal for Winston Silcott, and his year as chairman, which ends next month, has been dedicated to taking the plum out of the mouth of his profession, and saying what much of the legal establishment would prefer went unsaid.

Within seconds he is tearing into police use of confessions as the sole evidence for conviction, armed with personal experience in this week's case and his previous defence of Gerry Conlon, of the Guildford Four.

"The confidence of juries in convicting on confessions alone has been shattered, and the police had better face up to that," he says. "At the moment, they pack up the whole enquiry once they get a confession, but in future, the courts should ask for independent evidence as well. It has taken these high-profile cases to prove the point, but we were always suspicious when hour-long police interviews only resulted in six questions and six answers. What on earth was going on?"

Mr Scrivener has no intention of letting judges get off scot-free either, and says they were far too trusting of police evidence. "Most practitioners could write you a list of judges who would allow any confession. But the big cases have been an enormous shock to the judicial system, and I've had judges telling me they have just chucked out a whole case. If that had happened more in the past, police standards would be higher."

These are most un-Barlike statements, and typify Mr Scrivener's performance over the past year. Rarely was he out of the news, desperately selling the new look, and demanding that the courts should be user-friendly rather than judge-friendly. He claimed that lawyers were no longer the pompous spawn of Oxford and Cambridge and public schools. Instead, the Bar was taking on more students from polytechnics than



A graduate of the school of hard knocks: "I used to brag that I knew every sexual perversion in Latin," Anthony Scrivener says. "You see, I used to do a lot of divorce cases in my early days"

Oxford or Cambridge, and 16 per cent were from ethnic minorities, which is more than most professions can boast.

Earlier this week, he went the whole hog and admitted it would not be long before the profession took on an American-style classless glamour, with English lawyers working in their shirt sleeves and wearing pin-striped trousers. But, "Unlike LA Law," he told the *Evening Standard*, "we don't bank the clients."

He considers televising certain trials to be a sensible extension of his campaign for legal glasnost. (There is also the underlying suspicion that Mr Scrivener might rather enjoy such performances.) "Certain appeal cases which are in the public interest, like *Spycatcher*, should be televised if the parties agree. After all, the European Court does it, and we would not go as far as the Americans."

All this interest in debunking the profession probably comes from Mr Scrivener's roots. Born 56 years ago to Edna and Frank Bertram Scrivener, who ran an ironmonger's in Canterbury, he went to grammar school and University College, London, before working in various menial jobs to pay his way through pupillage. "I ended up washing dishes in the evenings, still wearing my pin-striped trousers." He met two of his best friends now at the Bar on the production line at a pea-canning factory.

"The modern generation," he sniffs, "seem to think they should be paid for their training." He considers such part-time work healthy, giving lawyers an affinity with their clients.

His work, often in criminal law, means he has never been cloistered in the Inns of Court, as some civil lawyers are. After 50 or so murder cases, he thinks he has

come across practically every form of depravity. "I used to brag that I knew every sexual perversion in Latin. You see, I used to do a lot of divorce cases in my early days."

Such wide experience might, he believes, be useful for future judges. At the moment, judges are expected to have some practising experience in specialist areas like commercial law, but "anyone can take a crack at criminal law on their first day". He feels that when life imprisonment is at stake, rather than mere money, experience should be of more importance.

The mysterious methods of recruiting and promoting judges also meet with his disapproval. Rather like the appointing of the Pope, a committee "of decent folk" sits behind closed doors, studying secret reports, which lawyers themselves can never see on their conduct. Since judges tend to be recruited from the ranks

of prosecutors, rather than defenders, a certain type tends to percolate through. "There is too much emphasis on existing judges' views, and naturally they tend to recruit people like themselves. When they ask me for opinions of people I am more surprised by who is missing from the list than who is on it."

Mr Scrivener thinks years of eating school-style dinners in the Inns' dining halls, surrounded by other judges of a similar age and temperament, have a dulling effect. He feels they should mix more with the students, and should be made to retire at 65 rather than 72, in an attempt to fill the generation gap. As a recorder himself, he is on first-name terms with many of the judges, and was given the stamp of approval as a Queen's Counsel in 1989. Although he attacks the

stuffy aspects of the Bar, he is also very much part of it, and his railing stays within the bounds of acceptability.

No one has been safe during his year as chairman. He has pushed through a proposal that every chambers should aim to recruit 5 per cent of its lawyers from ethnic minorities, and pointed out a number of suitably qualified women who had been passed over in the selection of judges. Eyebrows were raised when he talked about putting the consumer first in the courts, and suggested that it was ridiculous that all cases should be booked for 10am, leaving clients and expensive hourly-paid experts hanging around all day in uncomfortable waiting rooms. He produced a charter for courts which was taken up by John Major. Now he is campaigning for ridiculously long trials to be shortened, for the sake of the jury and the legal aid budget, which he

believes could be better used in industrial tribunals.

Although a radical, he has not pigeonholed himself with left-wing cases alone: next year's list includes Asil Nadir in the Polly Peck case, and Eurotunnel. One 18-month case in Hong Kong earned him a rumoured £1 million, although to balance that he sometimes loses money by doing legal aid work.

Separated, with two grown-up children, he has time to be a workaholic. Long hours are aided by what he claims is his only eccentricity: being teetotal. His ability to combine full-time advocacy with the campaigning soundbite have brought him to the notice of the Labour establishment-in-the-wings, and he has been tipped as the future Lord Chancellor. "That'd be nice. That's one job I wouldn't mind. You could actually get something done."

Hong Kong's Walled City is dying, but one inhabitant's work goes on

Hak Nam, the City of Darkness, is falling at last. Sixty years after the first attempts to knock it down, police and government officers in Hong Kong are finally clearing out the last residents of the old Walled City, a 6½ acre warren of stinking, rotting, dripping and depraved alleyways. Because of the 1997 agreement, which made possible

Heart of the slum

an arrangement between the British and Chinese over this running sore, it is to become a park and shopping centre. Jackie Pullinger, a quietly spoken Englishwoman who has worked as a missionary in the City since 1966, ex-

presses only satisfaction at the demolition of her odd, horrible parish, and a continuing willingness to work with the people now displaced from it. Sentiment, after all, would be out of place. In 1989, Ms

Pullinger wrote an account of her first encounter with the City which still freezes the blood. Innocent, lately converted but rejected by mission societies as being too young, she was travelling the world "praying for a job to do". Naïvely, she walked alone into the City and saw the sights of one of the world's worst slums: prostitutes aged 12 and 60, people of all ages, alive and dead, pocked with the needle-marks of heroin addiction, and hundreds of men sprawled in the street "chasing the dragon", inhaling heroin through a tube held over heated tin foil.

She gave them some tracts, and they rolled them up and continued inhaling through them. She tried walking up to mobsters saying, "Jesus loves you", and was told to run along. "But I wanted to be nowhere else," she said. A vision stirred her of "another city, a city ablaze with light. There was no more crying, no more death or pain."

She persevered, and built a remarkable mission, one which continues now despite

the gradual disappearance of its original patch. Using her teacher's salary, she ran a youth club inside the City for young Triad gangsters, who she well knew were living off prostitutes and would leave her shelter to go out and kill. Gradually, she reformed many, got addicts off drugs through prayer and care, rescued prostitutes, and built shelters in other parts of Hong Kong and of Asia.

Her philosophy — similar to Mother Teresa's — is of neither campaigning politically nor fund-raising, but "starting with the love, not the bricks and mortar". Speaking on Ms Pullinger's behalf, Shannon Smith, her American aide, said yesterday: "We go on looking after the folk we found in the City, and have pockets of helpers round Hong Kong and Kowloon who keep in touch and make sure they've got homes. Jackie's got a whole lot of living in her flat this week, till we sort out where everyone's going. But the work doesn't end, oh goodness no. We're not all about looking after places anyhow. We look after people."

LIBBY PURVES



Saving souls: Jackie Pullinger and some of her flock

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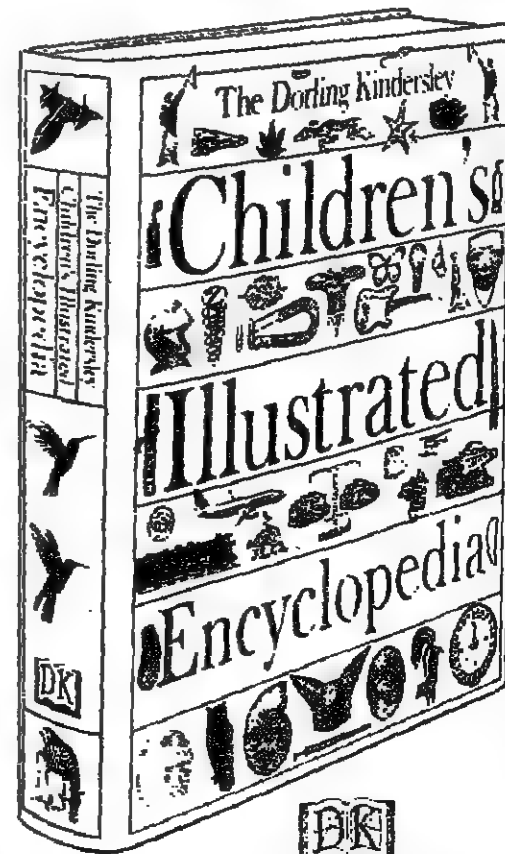
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Europe's new Nazis

Roger Boyes on a revival of fascism in the East

Wiesław Chrzanowski, the craggy right-wing lawyer chosen this week to be speaker of the first free Polish parliament for 50 years, has many fans. One of them is the parish priest in Gorzów, in south-west Poland, who told his congregation just before an election rally for Mr Chrzanowski that "Catholics should vote for Catholics, Muslims for Muslims, Jews for Jews, freemasons for freemasons, communists for communists". The task facing the faithful then was to identify Jews, and many politicians have been willing to help them.

Anti-Semitism is on the rise again, and not only in Poland. The swing to the nationalist right throughout Eastern Europe is whipping up a climate of intolerance that is beginning to resemble the 1930s. It is partly an ideological choice: the dream of communism is being replaced by the dream of an ethnically homogeneous state.

Not since Hitler, he said, has there been such "a flood of nationalist-chauvinist sentiment legitimised by the government". Ethnic minorities could not expect to make their voice heard through the democratic opposition, since "the nationalism is so strong that even the opposition parties have to adapt to it". The Romanian army prepares itself for an attack by Hungarians, and the ethnic Hungarians are accused of starting a separatist movement.

Leaders are resorting to populist gestures not only for ideological reasons but also to deflect people from inflation, unemployment and enduring shortages. Communist regimes could demand and enforce sacrifices; the new democrats cannot. And so, unable to persuade people to accept a decade of belt-tightening, the search is on for scapegoats.

On the street anger is bubbling over. In Slovakia, nationalist contempt for President Havel and a united Czechoslovakia is rising fast. The moderate Slovak politician, Fedor Gal, proponent of a tolerant federal Czechoslovakia, has been bombarded with death threats, anti-Semitic slurs and hate mail, and spat at on the street by strangers.

Neo-fascist skinheads, meanwhile, are not just confined to eastern parts of Germany. African students at Budapest polytechnic have written to the vice-chancellor requesting police protection after 11 separate attacks by skinheads. Gypsies have been beaten in several towns, while the walls of Tata, in the Hungarian mining region, are daubed with swastikas and "Heil Hitler". So far the Hungarian police have not been able to track down the publishers of the skinhead news bulletin which sets out their racist ideology.

Czech skinheads have killed 14 gypsies since the beginning of the year. This violence is rooted in economic envy. Although gypsies form a large proportion of the unemployed in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, many are quite well off, dabbling in the black market, running quasi-legal secondhand car businesses and smuggling currencies. In Mława, in northern Poland, some 200 Poles went on the rampage against wealthy gypsies, setting cars on fire, smashing up villas and shredding fur coats. "They came drunk as skunks," recalled one of the victims, Mrs Maria Paczkowska, "shouting 'Poles for the Poles'. They hate us for being rich but underneath they hate us for having dark skin."

Whether this anger can be siphoned off by increasingly nationalist governments remains to be seen. The Hungarian government has an intricate defensive of Hungarian minorities in Romania, Yugoslavia, Slovakia and the Ukraine. But the chief effect of this policy is an uncomfortable relationship with many of its neighbours and a sense of government impotence.

In Poland, the election of seven deputies from the ethnic German minority will probably ease the friction in Silesia. But Poland, as much as Hungary, is a captive of its minority politics: Poles are shouted at, and in once case even shot at, as they cross the Ukrainian border, and ethnic Poles are being edged out of jobs in the Baltic states.

All that Poles can do about this is pursue a rather unfocused nationalism. When President Walesa met Lithuania's President Landsbergis in the Vatican last week, they barely talked to one another. The result of confusion at the top is trouble down below. The popular mood is turning nasty.

John Major is gambling his political future on striking a deal at Maastricht, writes Peter Riddell

Dealing a winning hand

A WEEK IN POLITICS

John Major faces the same dilemma as Mikhail Gorbachev earlier this year, one opposition leader said to me the other day. "He is trapped between the reformers and the ancien régime." But, as with Mr Gorbachev in August, events may this week have pushed Mr Major firmly into the reformers' camp. Even though you can argue about the labels, he has this week moved to break with the ancien régime.

Over his first year as prime minister, Mr Major has struggled to escape several political and economic traps. His way out is now clearly dependent on securing agreement at the Maastricht summit of European leaders in 10 days' time. Margaret Thatcher's intervention has made this outcome more, rather than less, necessary. There is no doubt that she will oppose any deal likely to emerge from Maastricht. The breaking point was not her advocacy of a referendum in her Commons speech last week, but her criticism of the government, in an ITN interview, for being "arrogant". It was an interview too far for most Tory MPs.

To Conservative leaders, Mrs Thatcher is now the enemy; the only question is how to deal with her. The official view is that

before Maastricht she and her allies should be ignored. Sir Norman Fowler's warning that she could lose the Tories the election was too near the mark for comfort. If the Thatcherites oppose the cabinet's recommendation of a Maastricht deal, she and perhaps 20 to 30 other Tory rebels will be confronted and defeated.

Mr Major and Douglas Hurd are increasingly confident that a deal will be secured, subject to the usual proviso about last-minute snags. The difficulty is that Mr Major has little room for manoeuvre. No one disputes his skills as a party manager, either in developing the idea of the optional clause on economic and monetary union or in bringing along the vast majority of Tory MPs and the whole of his cabinet. One Eurosceptic minister said: "John and Douglas are one of us on this issue." Another minister

noted how at each stage Mr Major had, unlike his predecessor, involved his colleagues in lengthy discussions. The OPD(E) committee of ministers discussed the negotiations for two-and-a-half hours earlier this week.

But building a consensus has its price. Mr Major has at times sounded negative, concentrating on limiting concessions rather than on what has been, and can be, achieved. Norman Lamont and the Treasury have ensured that Britain will have a genuine choice in the late 1990s over a single currency, while Mr Hurd has preserved the central role of Nato and a foreign policy based on cooperation between member states. The British strategy of deferring decisions on the future of the community at a time of such upheaval in Europe is succeeding.

The government has not yet prepared the way sufficiently for compromises that are likely to be necessary. Other EC countries are having to dilute their aspirations to meet Britain's

concerns, and they do not have endless patience. One minister who hopes for a deal says there is a bit of negotiating leeway over the powers of the parliament and extensions of Community competence, but the Eurosceptics in the government will be watching for any signs of slippage, particularly over the powers of the parliament and the social charter. One senior minister commented: "John laid down clear guidelines (in his Commons speech). He can't go back on them. If he did, quite a few ministers might consider resigning." In practice, only two or three junior ministers are thought to be seriously discussing quitting, and they are mainly irreconcilables who are still close to Mrs Thatcher.

If a deal is agreed at Maastricht, the full cabinet will be mobilised to sell it, including such robust campaigners as Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke. The alternative is complicated; it depends on how the talks break down. If there is a mess, with cross-currents of

disagreement among the twelve, as is possible, then discussions will continue among the foreign ministers.

But if Britain is blamed for any breakdown, Mr Major will quickly have to rethink the government's strategy. He can argue that he has safeguarded British interests and that Labour would have signed up to what is on the table. But that will not be enough. There will be a hole in his strategy. He was, after all, the prime minister who set out to put Britain back at the heart of the Community.

It is not just a political difficulty. If Britain is seen as isolated from the rest of the Community, sterling could come under pressure again. Mr Lamont has handled the latest bout of jitters calmly and sensibly: maintaining sterling's present place in the exchange rate mechanism is "paramount", as he told the Treasury committee of the Commons on Wednesday. Any short-term gains from a lower exchange rate would be rapidly offset by higher inflation, and any reduc-

tion in interest rates might be temporary in view of the blow to the credibility of the government's strategy.

A far greater long-term worry for the government than Maastricht is that, in Mr Lamont's words, "the recovery is slow in coming". Such is the current jitters that another senior minister scribbled on Monday's cautious Confederation of British Industry survey, "better than I feared".

The economy may have turned the corner, but there are precious few favourable signs. Ministers are worried that the recent upturn of various business confidence surveys may be reversed over the winter as bigger orders fail to materialise. And this could dampen the "feed good" factor, the general indicator of public confidence about the economy, which has in the past correlated closely with voting intentions. There is little that ministers can say or do to improve matters.

For all these worries, one senior minister admitted to me that he is more optimistic than earlier in the autumn. Tory support is heading up at 39 to 40 per cent, and Labour has not caught the voters' imagination. But, he stressed, "we have got to get a deal at Maastricht."

Sunday, bloody Sunday

As shops decide to open on Sundays, Philip Howard asks if the sabbath was ever as good as we imagine



So, farewell then, English Sunday. For three and a half centuries you were a national institution. But recently you have been crumbling. And the decision by the supermarkets and stores to open on the next four Sundays, until Christmas, and by the Attorney-General to turn a blind eye ("It is the responsibility of local authorities to decide their own course of action") sound the gravel on the coffin-lid for you.

Like many English institutions, the traditional Sunday is probably better at a distance than it was in fact. We see it, like our schooldays, through a pink mist of nostalgia. It was the morning for a long lie, or for early service, summoned by bells. How soft the music of those village bells falling at intervals upon the ear. Or, as Ambrose Bierce put it: "All the church-bells made a solemn din — A fire-alarm to those who lived in sin."

Sunday was a middle-class phenomenon, to do with keeping up appearances. The upper classes and the working classes did not let Sunday interrupt the even tenor of their lives so dramatically. Sunday was seldom as awful as for Edmund Gosse, whose father was a religious fanatic, all dressed up in his Sunday morning heart, in *Father and Son*. Such strict sabbatarianism survives in remote pockets, for example on Harris, where you cannot get a taxi on Sunday unless it is to go to the kirk, and where I have seen a householder put a lobster pot over the cock in the hen run to stop it getting at the hens on the Lord's Day.

At school we had to write religious essays of a sermonising nature, called Sunday Questions, over four interminable sheets of blue lined foolscap every Sunday, and go to chapel at least three times, the last time in Latin: marvellous odd hymns, from the dawn of Christianity.

Sunday was both a religious

and a secular holiday: it meant church or chapel, but also the Sunday newspapers, especially for that unique English institution (inexplicable to foreigners), *The News of the World*, with its peccant vicars and lots of vicarious sex, envy and spite. Then there were the words of the Authorised Version and the Book of Common Prayer, which are the bedrock of the English language, and its incantations. Jean Rhys caught the mood of the Sabbath exactly: "The feeling of Sunday is the same everywhere, heavy, melancholy, standing still. Like when they say, 'As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.'"

Sunday was the day of smells, which are more potent than other sense impressions at stirring the memory: of fresh coffee, of joint and two veg, of greasy Yorkshire pudding, of freshly podded peas from the garden, and of damp as the parlour was opened for its weekly airing.

Sunday tea is still an important family ritual in areas and classes of England. A daughter is not recognised as properly independent and married until she has had the family around for the rite of passage of Sunday tea. It was the day for the lost art of gossip: letter-writing done at leisure in time to catch the Sunday post. It was the day for gumboots and family walks, children grumbling and for listening to the favourite wireless programme *en famille*, for playing board games. It was, in fact, much like everyday life in New Zealand today. Nietzsche said: "It was a masterpiece of the English to make Sunday so solemn and gloomy that the workmen unconsciously long for his work to begin again."

The English and Scottish Puritans during the Commonwealth, following Genesis literally — "And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the

seventh day from all his work which he had made" — they banned all sport and recreation. After the Restoration, there was some relaxation. But the Lord's Day Observance Act of 1782 closed all places of entertainment where an admission fee was charged on Sunday.

A Sunday Entertainments Act of 1932 empowered local authorities to license the Sunday opening of cinemas and musical

entertainments, and the opening of museums and galleries was permitted. Governments have always been timid about the uproar aroused by tampering with the English Sunday, and prefer to leave it to local authorities. But our government has undertaken to reform the 1950 Shops Act, which creates the ludicrous lucky dip about what can and what cannot be done on Sunday.

Samuel Johnson, a devout traditionalist but a man with a bottom of good sense, put the case for English Sunday eloquently: "Sunday should be different from another day. People may walk, but not throw stones at birds." It is still deemed unsporting among the biffers and thrashers to kill birds and fish on the day of rest. Clay pigeons are OK, and a regular Sunday intrusive noise less

sweet than bells. Johnson was a realist as well as a rationalist. "Whenever I miss church on a Sunday, I resolve to go another day. But I do not always do it."

Sunday used to do all the dirty washing for the rest of the week. Now that all days are going to be the same, I am sorry for the people who have to go to work on Sundays. (Journalists already do.) They will not be Members of Parliament, judges, merchant bankers and civil servants, but poor, underpaid and harassed shop assistants and checkout cashiers.

The downside of the English Sunday was the terrible boredom for those who did not enjoy such solitary pursuits as reading, writing letters and embroidery. The English Sunday was killed by the deplorable modern tendency to do what we want rather than what we are told, and by such scourges of the 20th century as the motorcar, television, D.I.Y. and the cult of shopping. It may seem incredible, but for a large part of the population shopping even if it is only window-shopping has replaced God as a religion.

The death knell sounded for Sunday when a flickering blue light and the sound of people laughing at terrible television programmes came from the drawing-room. Instead of the sound of scratching pens, and children yawning and grizzling. The end of the English Sunday increases our liberty to do what we want, and, perhaps, augments the sum of human happiness. This must be what Selzer and Yeaman called a Good Thing, but it seems rather a shame. Still, as a biblical source even more authoritative than Genesis put it: "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: Therefore the Son of Man is Lord also of the Sabbath." And it is not yet proposed to make it compulsory to go shopping on Sunday.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

This one is for Thane Warburg, but you may listen. I want you to. And when you have finished, feel free to pass your eavesdrop on: if I am properly to discharge my guilt, as many people as possible should know about it. Indeed, the fact that I am not back home writing this at my desk but in my car muttering it into my tape recorder makes me feel even better, since it makes me feel even guiltier. Not just because cursing yourself aloud in a small dark place really gets remorsefulness going — Catholics know a thing or two about confession — but also because I should not be in my car jabbering into a Dictaphone. I should be in my car changing into a tracksuit.

That's what Thane thinks I'm doing. Why should he not? My last words to him were "I'll just nip over to the car-park and put on my kit," and he had no reason to believe he was not dealing with a gentleman. One, moreover, who had accepted his generous offer to tootle across to the Queen's Club and try his hand at Real Tennis, than which no game is more gentlemanly, and whose Championship Committee Chairman has therefore every right to expect that when his guest says he's going to get his pilmoolls, that is just what his guest is going to do. Not skulk off. Not slink away. That is not how gentlemen carry on.

The problem is that I did not realise, before this morning, what sort of gentlemen play Real Tennis. I had always assumed it to be a game invented

by Henry VIII, and that he had come up with it because he wanted something that elderly, overweight drunks could play. Far legs apart, flabby arms akimbo, you stood there in natty kinglywear, big plumed hat, ermine cloak, nice gold chain, shiny shoes, and motionless enough for Holbein to get it all down for tomorrow's sports pages, until it was time to go and broach another firkin and resume the dismemberment of capons. Just my sort of game. I had always thought, and if I ever get to be a gentleman...

I thought this because I had forgotten that gentlemen came in other shapes and sizes than Tudor. While some gentlemen use their limitless leisure-time to develop their livers and accumulate women, others use it to develop their muscles and accumulate trophies, a further point being that there is generally plenty of that time remaining in which to work things out. Let me quote from the rules. "The court is divided by the net into two ends, the service end and the hazard end. The service must bounce at least once on the penthouse on the hazard side. Points may be won by striking the ball into the dedans, the grille, or the winning gallery. If a ball enters any other gallery, a chase is set. A chase occurs whenever a ball bounces twice on the floor at the service end before a player touches it. Chases can also occur at the hazard end, but only if the second bounce is closer to the net than the service line. The

players change ends when there are two chases, or if there is one chase outstanding and the score is game-point. After changing ends, chases are played off. The receiving player must hit his shots so that his second bounces are closer to the back wall than the chase being played." Straightforward enough, you say, but that is because you do not know that all this, whatever it is, takes place in a vault in which every surface, horizontal, vertical, diagonal, is the court: balls fly off roofs, out of corners, down the ledges, towards you, and you are expected to intercept these with a racket the size of a soup-spoon. If you imagine running about in a cathedral and trying to bring down an intrusive airborne sparrow with a stray ricochet from a horse-pistol, you will catch the general gist. If you further imagine that while you are attempting this, an umpire is shouting arcane like "One yard worse than the last gallery!" to let you know how things stand, you will have the entire gist.

So I watched two youths fleet as cougars hurtling hither and yon for a bit, because it was felt I should not go on court entirely unprepared, and then I came over here to the car to change. Or, rather, to face what could not be changed. Forgive me, Thane, but I'm off to compete with old Henry on more familiar ground: when it comes to lunchtime athletics, I can chuck a drumstick with the best. Call it chickening out.

Musical chairs

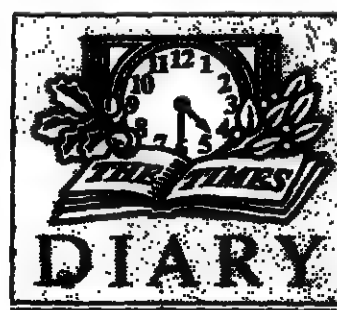
IF the Eurosceptics have a smile on their faces this morning it is probably due to the apparent snub to Jacques Delors on the 50 pence coin minted to mark Britain's presidency of the EC next summer.

The reverse of the coin, which was unveiled earlier this week, depicts 12 chairs around an EC conference table. But according to Brussels, it should be 13, and the chair the Royal Mint has omitted is none other than that of the president of the European Commission, M Delors. True, 12 nations sit around the EC table, but the permanent presence of Delors makes a baker's dozen.

Blame for the error appears to lie not only with the Royal Mint but also at the door of Norman Lamont. As Chancellor of the Exchequer he is also Master of the Mint, responsible for approving the design of all coins of the realm. After he approved the design, it was rubber-stamped by Buckingham Palace. The Foreign Office, which is known to be appalled by the design, is privately barely able to conceal its glee at the Treasury's error.

The seven-edged coin goes into circulation in July when Britain assumes the EC presidency, and will be minted with the dates 1992 and 1993. The European Commission is not pleased. A spokesman said: "Perhaps 13 is just an unlucky number, but we cannot believe Britain could really forget us." And with Maastricht looming he added: "We hope this is not an ill omen."

On the other hand, as our leading article points out, the Royal Mint claims it knew exactly what it was doing. "We thought it would be confusing to have 13 chairs



when there were only 12 EC flags. It is only meant to be symbolic, after all." Indeed — and that is precisely why M Delors and his supporters are so upset by the omission.

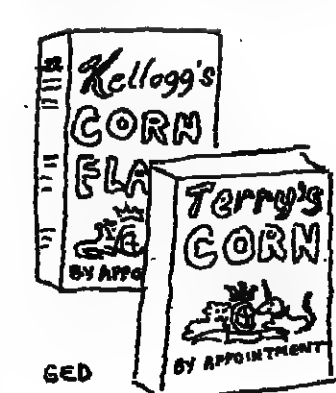
● Yesterday's *Diary* story, Sir Peregrine Worsthorne phones to confirm that he was mighty impressed with Millant-supporting MP Dave Nellist at the Parliamentary of the Year lunch this week. "I have always been rather fond of Labour left-wing people," he says. But, he adds, he did not suggest that the MP who didn't pay his poll tax would be an unwelcome house guest. "The person I said I would not have in my house is Ted Heath." With Labour about to charge Nellist with bringing the party into disrepute, will we see the MP calling the former Sunday Telegraph editor as a character witness?

Other men's plumes

A NEW warrant could soon be issued in the royal household: purveyor of slogans and aphorisms to HRH the Prince of Wales. There is already one strong contender: Terry Lovelock, copywriter of the famous line about refreshing the parts other beers cannot reach. In the foreword to Charles's first book of watercolours, the prince

transforms the slogan into "painting refreshes parts of the soul which other activities can't reach."

Lovelock made sure the prince knew he was the originator of the line. "I wrote to him and asked if I could approach the Lord Chamberlain to request permission to become purveyor of slogans to the prince," says Lovelock, who is now a film director. "He has written back and says that to become eligible for a royal warrant, I will



need to supply him continually with such lines for at least three years." Lovelock relishes the challenge. "It sounds far more impressive than being royal purveyor of, say, cheeses or cornflakes."

At peace

LORD CARRINGTON may be battling to stop a third world war breaking out over Yugoslavia, but that has not prevented him from indulging his other passions. His fellow members were astonished this week when he turned up in London at a meeting of the trustees trying to raise £3 million for Britain's only museum of gardening at the church of St Mary-at-Lambeth.

Carrington, an enthusiastic supporter of the museum, dismissed his colleagues' surprise at his presence. As he took his seat in the church vestry he announced: "If you are a trustee of something you should do everything possible to be there. Anyway, talking about gardens is a nice relaxation from what I have been talking about over the last few weeks."

Not that the gardeners' world is without excitement. Sir Roy Strong resigned two years ago as head of the appeal, claiming the trustees had acted "disgracefully" when they rejected his fundraising ideas. Since then, however, all has been rosy in the garden, which perhaps suggests that the former foreign secretary's renowned diplomatic skills have found more fertile soil in the borders and shrubberies than they have in the Balkans.

What if it sinks?

IT may not be yellow, but London may be about to see the first ever submarine to be moored on the Thames. After a three-year battle, the Corporation of the City of London has finally granted planning permission to the entrepreneur Ed Berman, who plans to float an "O" class submarine (strictly non-nuclear) on the Victoria Embankment next to the Royal Navy memorial to submariners at King's Reach.

"We hope that more than 100,000 people a year will visit the submarine," says Berman. "It will bring an awareness of history and technology to the British public." Only one problem remains: he has yet to acquire a submarine. "We are planning to buy it from the Ministry of Defence or a private owner," says Berman. With the end of the Cold War, he rather hopes the bottom has dropped out of the market.

CINEMA GUIDE

Recommended Dealer:
Cannon Electronics (071-437-2501)

[illegible]

A TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES
PRODUCERS: Chuck Cannon, Alvin

[illegible]

performa Dvorak's Requiem.

performers David's Flanagan,
commissioned to the Society and first
performed by it in 1981. Jeremy
Pattinson, *Director*
Belvedere Cathedral, Orchard House
(01483 2514), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

DANCE FOR LIFE: International mix
of musical theatre, ballet and modern
dance have joined forces in this fund-
raising event. *Artistic Director*, Les
lie Mathemadon, Derek Jacobs,
Christopher Gable and Maira Shearer
will be performing. *Benefactor*,
the Princess of Wales. The
evening also features the British debut
of the new musical *Shogun*. Tickets
(£10-£25) range from £25 to £250 and are
bookable by telephone from Crusaid on
0800 755111, or by mail from
The Musical Theatre, Heywood,
Manchester M20, Sat. 7.30pm.

THE MUTRUCKER: English National
Theatre's idea of the annual Mutchcracker
season with what is being billed as a
new premiere of a new production.
The play is by the late C. P. Snow and
Steven (although based on his
[Henson] production) with new designs
by Peter Hall. The story is of a
Mutchcracker's traditional story and is
set off at both children and adults. *After
the show*, a special Mutchcracker. See The
Mutchcracker to Southampton on
December 6, before leaving up its
travelling show at the Festival Hall on
December 22.

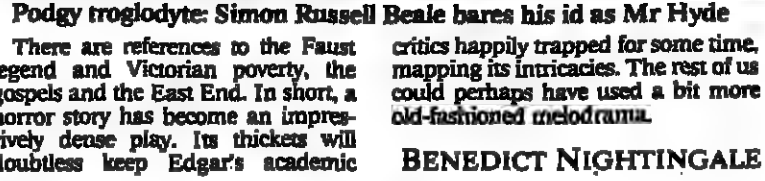
**Phoenix Theatre, Oxford Street,
Manchester (01-236 9822), tonight,
Wednesday, 7.30pm, late tomorrow,
Thursday, 8.30pm.**

THEATRE
**The Strange Case of
Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde**
Barbican

to give Jekyll a sister and her a maid who comes to his house for protection against a violent father. It is a bit laborious and a slightly misguided idea, but it gives Hyde someone to make pregnant and Jekyll someone high-mindedly to disown as immoral. The "virtuous" doctor is more the Victorian hypocrite than in Stevenson.

Both writers see Jekyll as the victim of repressed desires that obsess and engulf him. "It's not me, it's me," wails Allam. But he rapturously accuses him of wanting to violate totes; but his sickly, fascinated face shows that it is, it is. Again, both writers believe that health consists in accepting both body and mind, not rejecting one for the other. But Edgar also presents Jekyll as the victim of an oppressive father, hanging a painting of his name on the wall and often bringing his name into the dialogue. Jekyll, Hyde, he is belatedly having an explosive adolescence.

Apocryphal additions gradually accumulate. There is a running moral debate between Jekyll and his friends, principally Oliver Ford Davies's crabbed k it quietly forceful Uterson. Is evil the result of neurological disturbance or economic deprivation, brains or trains? As one might expect, the two tend to be the same. One day, evoking a London divided between rich men who haunt Pall Mall and use prostitutes, and poor women who squat in Trafalgar Square and sell themselves. Even Hyde's murder of Sir Danvers Carew, MP, comes across as the revenge of the rump class on a privileged man who, like several others in the play, clearly has skeletons in his cupboard. But Edgar is too complex and wary a thinker to reduce the book into anything resembling a social tract.



LS/Knussen
Queen Elizabeth Hall

CELEBRATE the fact that Hans Werner Henze is 65 this year, the Sinfonietta is staging three concerts of his music over the next fortnight. The first of them, on Wednesday, proved to be an absorbing occasion — a resurrection of the extraordinary song cycle *Voices*, composed mostly in 1973 for this very ensemble. *Issues of war and injustice* never go away completely. Costly as it was on our concert halls, we were reminded of such things.

These 22 pieces, which extend a further 40 minutes, are Henze himself singing, the Weillinger-Dessau song tradition, reminding us of an irresistible power. How fitting, for instance, is Erich Fried's "billig", written in the early days of the Vietnam war, which gloriously suggests that the compensation of money paid to the family of the President of the United States, in the case of his son being killed and the White House moved to the ground, should be the same as the money paid to the family of a Chinese non-combatant killed by the troops.

Henze also knows how to entertain through entertainment. We were not helped enjoying for its own sake

CONCERT
Philharmonia/Slatkin

OF COURSE. What had looked in advance like an oddly assorted programme, beginning with Ravel's *Mother Goose* before going on to Boule's Double Piano Concerto and Vaughan Williams's *Sinfonia Antartica*, turned out to contain a tiny linking thread of continuity in the contributions of pitched percussion instruments, whinging away to the

während des Entkleidungsaktes", a tale of a stripper's thoughts as she performs; nor is it possible to miss the intense sadness of her de-

nando Cruz's "The Electric Cop", while compellingly relating a hilarious parody of violent American television, also points at the vacuity which lies behind it and which it preaches. Such things are scarcely less sinister than more overtly political acts like the right-wing coup in Greece, referred to in Giuseppe Ungaretti's "Gracia 1970", or the subjugation of blacks (Calvin C. Hernton's "The Distant Drum").

Yet Henze is at his most penetrating in the cycle's war-related texts, like "Cain", the bleak resistance poem by Gino de Sanctis addressed to a dead German soldier, with its touching recorder accompaniment, or "Il Paio" by Mario Tobino, a tale of an Italian lad tortured and hanged by the Germans.

The Sinfonietta's players, doubling on everything from jew's harp to tearing paper, relished the challenges of this *sometimes* bewilderingly varied music to the full under Oliver Knussen's firm direction, while the two singers, Fiona Kimm and Nigel Robson, were simply superb.

STEPHEN PETTITT

bell and gong orchestras of Indonesia.

But that was only one way in which the Vaughan Williams seemed dis-

also the ostinato-sustained grandeur of the third movement, the first half of which could almost have been written by John Adams. I doubt this was just an American accent brought by the conductor, for Leonard Slatkin has proved his sympathetic acquaintance with English music over a broad range, and what he achieved here, with the help of resplendent playing from the Philharmonia and ethereal woodwinds, remains for a long time

LCDT
Sadler's Wells

LONDON Contemporary Dance theatre's forlornst at Sadler's Wells displays a company in transition, with familiar and unfamiliar faces performing familiar and unfamiliar works. Last week the new director (Nancy Duncan, presented three new acquisitions; this week she offers pieces from the pre-Duncan regime. Inevitably they are selected from the recent repertoire. But the gold medal among them must go to the latest of them, Jane Dudley's *Harmonica Breakdown*: a five-minute cameo solo wonderfully juxtaposing dance jumps with a strutting swagger and quotidian gesture. The recurring phrases of movement give a cohesive construction; the social behaviour marks it as a work of the 1930s when artists identified with the underdog.

One could only wish it had been possible to play the original scratchy recording of the blues of Sonny Terry and Oh Red rather than the less atmospheric live performance required by the Musicians' Union. Cameron Wray's dancing seemed too delicate, adopting external shapes and lacking the internal intensity remem-

No, something more fundamental is at issue here. In 1953, when the

The first half of the programme and another logic in providing show-

Very few seeing it now are likely to remember Dudley herself in the role, but many of us have watched Jonathan Luna dance his own *Hana'Ua*.

The evening opens with Dan Wagner's *White Heat*, in which two dramatically differentiated groups of eight erupt and nervy emerge to Barok's trumpet quartet No 4. It ends with *Shostakovich and Rikud* (Hebrew for *Requiem*) by Liat Dror, and Nir Ben-Zur and Niv Ben-Zur. They set the scene apart in two sharply competitive ensembles, yet also blur them by dressing both sides in frocks and Doc Martens. The dances, playfully slumping and accumulative, provide a life-enhancing exuberance and allow Kenneth Macmillan to demonstrate his speed, precision and sheer joy of dance.

NADINE MEISNER

played not only in the Poulenc but also in the Ravel, where the orchestral ballet kept stopping so that we could hear the five piano-duet stories in-

They were much better in the "Toulet": more crisp, exasperated and snappish than merely jokey, and matched in that by precise, sharp interjections from the orchestra.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

THEATRES APR
866[illegible]

VICTORIA SS 071 828	DUKE OF YORK
630 6262 GrpH 828 6188	OC 836 9837

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UT1-456 8122 | GREENWICH 081 8
bkg feet/ 240 | Evgs 7.45 Mats Sol

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755	NATIONAL THEATRE MO 071
SLOW	2232 Grps 071 620 0741: 24h

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PICCADILLY THEATRE B.O. 071
867 1118 CC 071-867 1111 071

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COMPANY LONDON 071 638[illegible]

LACE Best OT & m
071 834 1317 OC

[illegible]

ART GALLERY

[illegible]

• **Figure 10.10** illustrates the relationship between the number of units produced and the total cost of production. The total cost curve is a straight line starting from the origin (0,0) and increasing linearly with the number of units produced. The slope of the line represents the variable cost per unit. The fixed cost is represented by the vertical intercept of the line, which is \$100,000. The total cost curve is a straight line starting from the origin (0,0) and increasing linearly with the number of units produced. The slope of the line represents the variable cost per unit. The fixed cost is represented by the vertical intercept of the line, which is \$100,000.

TO
FROM
DATE

CHANNEL A

CHANNEL 4

The Channel 4 Daily
Schools
The **Parliament Programme** presented by Sarah Baxter. The guest in Sir Robin Day's weekly interview slot is the former prime minister Edward Heath who talks about John Major's first year in office.

Business Daily. The latest financial news.

Sesame Street. Award-winning early learning series from the United States.

Art of the Western World. Michael Wood continues his series on the development of Western art with a look at the work of Courbet, Manet and the Impressionists who rejected the academic conventions of Salon art for more realistic images of the world about them (r)



Gangster in Santa's clothing: Edward G. Robinson (2.30pm)

Film: Larceny, Inc. (1942, b/w) The Edward G. Robinson series continues with this overwing gangster spoof about a crook who decides to go straight after his release but shortage of cash leads to him planning a bank raid. To this end he buys a small shop next to the intended break-in and finds that the business begins to flourish. With Jane Wyman, Broderick Crawford, Jack Carson and Anthony Quinn

Film: Fidin' Tricks (1943, b/w) A Pete Smith short about how a couple cope with time-saving household gadgets. With Dave O'Brien and Dorothy Hoffman

Fifteen-to-One. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz game hosted by William G. Stewart (s)

Cutting Edge: Casualties. A documentary capturing 36 hours of Dr Jeannette Ritchie's 42-hour weekend shift in the casualty department of Hackney's Homerton hospital (r) (Teletext)

Roseanne. Wisecracking blue-collar comedy starring the retired Roseanne Barr and the equally overwrought John Goodman

Tonight with Jonathan Ross. The guests are soul singer James



Brown, wrestler Johnny B. Bad; the Icelandic Bodyslappers, and with a song, Everything But the Girl.

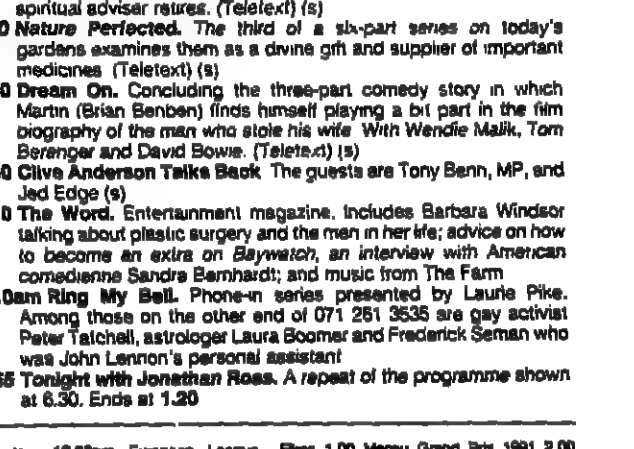
Catch of the Day News with Jon Snow and Anne Perkins. (Teletext) **Weather**

First Reaction

Brookside. True-to-life soap set in a Merseyside close. (Teletext) **(9)**

Ski. Bow! National newspaper sports quiz presented by Will Buckley. This week the *Observer's* finest take on sports journalists from *The Sunday Times*.

Continuing the series of the award-winning comedy set in a Boston bar. Carle is convinced she has psychic powers and is an ideal person to take over the crystal ball when her



12/30/91	European League	12/30/91	World Golf
5-10	2.30 Tennis 2.30 World Proles	5-10	2.30 Japanese Golf 4.00 Argentine
Figure Skating 1985 4.30 NFL Today		Football 6.00 BMW Golf Cup International	
Major World 8.00 Soccer Weekend		5.30 Pilot 8.00 Lombard RAC Rally 7.00	
2.00 - 4.00 - 5.00 - 6.00 - 7.00		4.30 Eurosport - 5.00 - 6.00 - 7.00	

Daily Dancing 2.38 Night Boat 3.75 Circus Attractions 4.06 Film: Blondie Goes to College* 5.20-5.30 Inland Carports in Profile

[illegible]

Local Services

... ..

[illegible]

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

Col Gadafi repeated his country's argument that any evidence of Libyan responsibility for the bombing be shown to a neutral party. If it showed Libyan involvement Libya would take on its responsibilities, he said.

Agreeing, Lord Oliver said that grief, sorrow and the need to care for loved ones who had suffered injury or misfortune must be considered as "ordinary and inevitable incidents of life" which must be sustained without compensation.

Leading article, page 19



Only a handful had ever seen Croatia before they arrived and many have had to learn the language from

There has barely been a political campaign in eastern Europe since the fall of the communist regimes that has not been accompanied by teams of earnest youngsters arriving with backpacks and

Hospital under fire, page 13

Richard Needham, the industry minister at Stormont, said: "This is an attempt by vicious, ruthless people who don't give a damn about human life, to destroy and undermine a city."

present Chancellor be remembered as soldiers remember Field Marshal Lord Haig?"

Not a planted question.

MATTHEW PARRIS

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0000 and at Knowlsey Park Industrial Estate,
Belfast BT6 3AF. Telephone 051-546 2000. Friday, November 20,
1992.

TODAY IN BUSINESS

CBI THOUGHTS

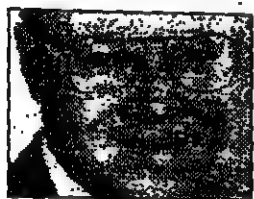


A preoccupation at Maastricht with workers' rights could see higher unemployment and protectionism throughout Europe, says the CBI's John Banham
Page 29

GOLDEN DAYS

Worldwide demand for catalytic converters for cars has enabled Johnson Matthey, the precious metals group, to maintain profits
Page 26

BLACK GOLD



Ultramar, the oil group headed by Jean Gaslin, which is fighting off a bid from Lamsco, predicts a dramatic profits recovery to £126 million next year
Page 27

TOMORROW

PROFILE



Chris Haskins tells Gillian Bowditch how a farm boy from Co. Wicklow turned into the maverick chairman of Northern Foods

LABOUR PLANS

Sara McConnell and Liz Dolan look at Labour's plans for tax, pensions, home ownership and investments

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7880 (-0.0012)
German mark 2.8580 (+0.0007)
Exchange index 90.4 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1856.4 (-11.5)
FT-SE 100 2428.6 (-18.9)
New York Dow Jones Closed
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 22780.42 (-192.88)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 10 1/2%
3-month interbank 10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 10 1/2-10 3/4%
US Prime Rate 7 1/2%
Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 4 3/8-4 5/8%
30-year bonds 10 3/4-10 7/8%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.7885
DM £2.8580
Sfr £2.5221
FF £1.7701
Yen £229.73
Index 90.4
ECU £1.72463
SDR £2.78282
ECU 1.03521
SDR 2.77821

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$355.45 pm \$356.05
close \$355.80-356.30 (\$206.50)
New York: COMEX \$357.65-358.15

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) \$20.05 bid (\$19.85)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.1 October (1987-1990)
Denotes Wednesday's close

Managers fearful for manufacturing

Recovery hope wilts after 2,600 jobs go

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 2,600 people are set to lose their jobs as a result of redundancies announced yesterday in industries ranging from coal mining through transport equipment to television production.

The scale and diversity of the job losses provides further evidence that managers see little prospect of an early recovery in demand sufficient to maintain capacity at present levels.

DAF, the Anglo-Dutch lorry and van builder, said it will shed 1,600 jobs throughout its operations during the next two years, in a battle to stem losses. The company was unable to provide a breakdown, but it appears as many as 1,000 of the jobs shed could be in Britain. The company blamed soft demand for commercial vehicles throughout Europe, and the collapse of sales in Britain, its biggest market.

BREL, the train builder, is to make 932 workers redundant, bringing total job losses this year at its plants in Derby, York and Crewe to 2,582. British Coal announced the closure of Thurcroft Colliery, near Rotherham, South Yorkshire, next week with the loss of 660 jobs. That closure, and the scheduled end to production at Merton Colliery, County Durham, today will bring total underground job losses at British Coal since April 1 to more than 7,000.

By next March, British Coal will have shut more than 11 pits, leaving just 53. The closure programme is expected to continue as privatised power generators, British Coal's biggest customers, prepare to increase imports of cheaper foreign coal as fast as construction of new port facilities will allow.

Rolls-Royce, the carmaker, handed compulsory redundancy notices to 260 of its workforce, after only 160 volunteered for its latest programme of job losses. Yesterday's cutbacks bring the total

number of job losses at Rolls-Royce plant to 1,240 this year, more than a quarter of the workforce. Demand for the company's cars has halved.

Finally, HTV, the television company that retained its franchise in the latest auction round, announced 82 job losses in Bristol and Cardiff. The company blamed reduced demand from the S4C channel for Welsh language programmes.

There are few signs of an end to the haemorrhage of jobs triggered by a recession many industrialists claim is worse than the slump of 1982. BREL said more jobs would have to go in the middle of next year because it lacks orders to replace contracts nearing completion.

BREL is expected to be left with surplus capacity at both its Derby and York manufacturing works as British Rail cuts spending on new rolling stock. John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, called on the government to allow BR to acquire trains under leasing contracts in order to preserve rolling stock building capacity and maintain its renewal programme.

The latest round of redundancies at BREL comes less than two months after a series of top management changes at the beleaguered company. John Darby, the chairman, has already said that losses are likely this year. Part of the loss is expected to have been caused by late delivery of BR's latest Class 158 regional express trains, and the subsequent modifications needed to make them work properly.

A BREL statement described the job losses as "a vital and necessary part of our restructuring plans to put the company back on its feet".

The latest cutbacks will involve the loss of 128 staff at BREL's Derby head office, 517 at its Derby manufacturing plants, 139 jobs in Crewe, and 148 jobs at York.

The job losses at DAF stem partly from efforts to com-

plete integration of the Leyland lorry-building business with which the Dutch group merged in April 1987. The company has 6,500 UK employees, including 5,000 at a modern lorry assembly plant in Lancashire and a van factory in Birmingham.

But a 60 per cent slump in the UK lorry market over the past two years contributed to losses across the group of £125 million over the past 18 months.

The contract to build 447 vehicles in the Class 158 series was awarded to BREL shortly before its privatisation, in April 1989. The turbo-charged diesel trains, designed by BR engineers, broke with BR's traditional use of steel bodies on separate steel chassis. Class 158 introduced the aluminium body shell to British railways, with a host of high-tech features. But novel design caused production delays, and the trains, brought into service without prototype testing, proved to have a series of design faults.

Subsequent trains employing similar technology have suffered fewer faults.

But in a recent letter to employees, Bo Södersten, the Swedish chief executive drafted in by Asea Brown Boveri and Trafalgar House, the group's principal shareholders, listed 12 steps necessary for a recovery, involving better union relations, improved financial controls, and much faster train completion times.

BREL has an order book approaching £900 million. However, its inefficient assembly operations have hindered its efforts to find overseas contracts to diminish its total reliance upon British Rail and London Underground for orders.

This has left it vulnerable to cutbacks in BR purchases, which are expected to shrink rapidly after peaking next year.

Comment, page 29
Europe's jobless, page 29



Will he, won't he? MGN shares rose on speculation that Kerry Packer may bid

Packer move lifts Mirror

By MARTIN WALLER AND BRIAN BUCHANAN

KERRY Packer yesterday withdrew from the fight for the Australian John Fairfax newspaper group, sending the share price of Mirror Group Newspapers in London ahead amid hopes that he might instead turn his attention there.

Mirror shares have been firm on bid talk since the death this month of Robert Maxwell, and they advanced an additional 4p to 127p yesterday. But shares in Maxwell Communication Corporation, the other quoted Maxwell company, continued to fall - down 7p to 38p - after the postponement of interim figures. The Maxwell family has put its 6 per cent stake in The Independent up for sale, the newspaper said.

Mr Packer, Australia's richest man, is in Argentina and was unavailable for comment. But sources close to the

Maxwell family emphasised it was set against any sale of MGN, of which it holds 51 per cent. One source said: "If Mr Packer was able to buy the share price of Mirror Group Newspapers in London ahead amid hopes that he might instead turn his attention there."

Analysts were sceptical about an immediate bid, pointing to the number of banks with substantial holdings in MGN and an interest in seeing the price rise.

Australian observers believe Mr Packer's withdrawal from the contested bid for Fairfax probably makes his former partners, who include Conrad Black, the publisher, favourites to win.

But Mr Packer's exit from the Fairfax consortium may not end his interest in Fairfax. There are also suggestions he may be planning a full Fairfax bid in the future, although he would then have to sell his 38 per cent stake in Australia's Nine television network. That stake led to the decision this week by the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal to hold a public enquiry into the bid in relation to cross-media laws.

Mr Packer's exit almost certainly removes the obstacle of the enquiry for Touring and probably has ended the interest of another regulatory body, the Trade Practices Commission. But Touring's business and political rivals are now concentrating on the foreign investment factor of its bid. Touring proposes an eventual 20 per cent foreign voting ownership through Mr Black, owner of The Daily Telegraph, with 80 per cent of the voting equity to be held by Australian investors.

City kept guessing, page 29

Upbeat Major helps steady pound

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister and the Chancellor sought to reassure the City and Westminster of the government's confidence in the recovery and of its commitment to keeping the pound firmly within the exchange-rate mechanism.

The upbeat approach of John Major and Norman Lamont, amid calm on the foreign exchange market because of the Thanksgiving holiday in America, helped offset concern about higher German interest rates that might have dragged down sterling against the mark.

However, fears of a Bundesbank tightening were rekindled by provisional figures showing annual consumer price inflation in western Germany climbing back above 4 per cent this month. A higher than expected 0.4 per cent rise in November pushed the annual rate to 4.1 per cent from the 3.5 per cent in October.

Although the Bundesbank is unlikely to respond immediately, renewed worsening on the inflation front could prompt the German central bank to raise key lending rates in the months ahead.

Adam Cole, economist at James Capel, said underlying inflation remains a problem. Excluding food and energy, German inflation is rising at an annual 3.5 per cent, and the core measure could go above 4 per cent next year, he said.

In the Commons, Mr Major said: "Now that inflation and interest rates are coming down, the country is moving into upturn and the prospects are getting better." Earlier, Mr Lamont told the House that his "number one priority" was to preserve sterling's strength in the ERM. He noted, however, that since joining the party grid in October 1990 he had been able to cut interest rates sharply. Mr Lamont reiterated his prediction that British inflation would fall further over the next year.

The pound held up well in the thin market. At 5pm close in London, it was virtually unchanged against the dollar at \$1.7685, but was more than half a pence higher at DM2.8606.

Welsh Water chief to go

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

SHARES in Welsh Water fell 11p to 355p after it announced that David Jeffrey, the group's respected managing director, is to retire at the end of the year at the age of 55 as part of a management succession plan.

Mr Jeffrey, who in 1988 brought to Welsh Water an enviable reputation for cost-consciousness from previous senior posts at the former Northumbrian and Yorkshire water authorities, will not receive compensation.

John Elfed Jones, the executive chairman, whose contract stipulates that he retire from executive duties at 60, is to go in March 1993. He will be succeeded as non-executive chairman by Iain Evans, aged 40, who is a non-executive director and becomes deputy chairman from the start of next year.

Mr Evans is a management consultant and chair-

man of The LEK Partnership, which received £422,000 in fees from Welsh Water in 1990-1, but Mr Evans said that, due to the changes, he had asked executives not to use LEK once current work was completed.

Graham Hawker, the finance director, aged 44, succeeds Mr Jeffrey as group managing director, leaving Welsh as the third privatised



Evans in line for top job

water group seeking a new finance director.

In the six months to end-September, Welsh Water's pre-tax profit rose 1.9 per cent to £74.1 million from turnover up 17 per cent to £171 million, helped by a fall in interest income and a 14 per cent rise in operating costs, which are not expected to rise so rapidly in future. Non-core activities broke even on turnover of £20 million. The interim dividend has been raised by 9.7 per cent to 7.13p from six-month earnings of 48.5p per share. Capital spending reached £83 million on target.

Mr Elfed Jones strongly dismissed any idea that Welsh Water would mount a hostile bid for South Wales Electricity in which it has built a 15 per cent stake. He said: "There is no intention to pursue any kind of takeover before I retire."

Harrison attacks Williams

SIR Ernest Harrison, chairman of Racial Electronics, launched a broadside against the performance and accounting policies of Williams Holdings, the industrial group bidding £700 million for Racial. In a document sent to Racial shareholders, Sir Ernest questions Williams' ability to grow without acquisitions. He says margins have declined in many of Williams' businesses, and suggests that Williams is the only company in the FT-SE 100 index that capitalises its pension fund surplus, keeping shareholders' funds artificially high.

Nigel Rudd, chairman of Williams, said: "Yet again Racial is trying to deflect shareholders' attention from the central issue: what is Racial worth?"

Rise in first-time investors augurs well for BT

Share ownership soars to 12.7m

By OUR FINANCIAL EDITOR

THREE out of ten adults own shares, according to a market research study undertaken in preparation for the Government's sale of BT shares.

On the basis of surveys covering 6,400 people, the study projects that 12.7 million people in Britain own shares, a rise of two million in less than a year. The survey implies that the flotation of the electricity distribution and generating companies, where the shares were thinly spread, brought in large numbers of first-time investors in shares.

When the Tories came to power in 1979, just one in 20 people was a member of the so-called share-owning democracy. Numbers were boosted this year by a heavy privatisation schedule.

The 12 regional electricity companies in England and Wales were sold late last year, followed by the successful sell-off of the two generating companies in March and the Scottish power companies in June.

Prospects for the BT sale received a boost when it was revealed that institutional shareholders in Britain and from abroad had already expressed interest in £3 billion of BT shares at or around Wednesday's closing price of 349p. BT shares recovered 6p to 355p in response.

Many of the bids are on a formula related to the market price on the closing day, plus a margin for the value of payment by instalment. Legal & General, for instance, has put in bids at 5p and more above the market price at the time.

The £3 billion of tentative bids, more

than a week before the institutional tender closes, means that the institutional offer is almost certain to be oversubscribed unless there are sharp movements in the BT price.

Including the maximum allocation to institutions and provisions for over-allocation, no more than about £3.2 billion of BT shares could be available for the institutional tender at current prices.

Francis Maude, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said the latest survey figures on share ownership set the right backdrop for the BT sale and were "good news for the UK more generally". British Market Research Bureau, commissioned by the Treasury to carry out the survey, interviewed 6,420 people between August 19 and November 5.

Comment, page 29

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Catalysers let Matthey beat slump

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GLOBAL demand for catalytic converters, or catalysers, for cars has enabled Johnson Matthey, the precious metals group, to maintain profits despite recession and lower metal prices.

In the half year to end-September, Johnson Matthey made standstill pre-tax profits of £52.6 million. The dividend is unchanged at 3p. David Davies, the company's chairman, said the achievement was commendable because "economic conditions, if anything, worsened during the period".

Johnson Matthey has set aside a further exceptional provision of £5 million to restructure its material technology business, which supplies platinum and rhodium derivatives for industrial processes, because conditions have failed to improve.

Catalytic systems are challenging precious metals to become the mainstay of Johnson Matthey's business after a surge in first-half operating profits from £8.4 million to £10.7 million. Johnson Matthey's role is to make and apply the precious metal coatings, which capture most harmful emissions from petrol engines. After January 1993 all petrol engine vehicles sold in Europe will have to be fitted with Catalytic converters. However, manufacturers are already selling one car in three with the

devices, and JM has a third of the European market.

Mr Davies said the development by Nissan of a catalyser using a cheaper palladium material did not appear to pose a threat because it was suitable only for smaller cars, and failed to meet American standards. JM is withdrawing from a partnership in Japan in order to seek a bigger share of the Japanese market.

Johnson Matthey weathered steep falls in precious metals prices during the first half. The price of platinum averaged £217 an ounce, down 19 per cent on the same period last year, and rhodium prices were 11 per cent lower at £120 an ounce.

Both metals were affected by increased flows of refined metal from South Africa and restoration of exports by countries of the former Soviet Union.

The effects of Mr Davies three-year recovery programme for Johnson Matthey, now entering its final year, showed through in profits from the colour and printing division, which rose sharply to £4.4 million.

The company shed a further 400 jobs worldwide during the first half, bringing the total number down nearly 20 per cent to 6,300, since the restructuring began. A further 400 jobs are likely to go by the end of the year.

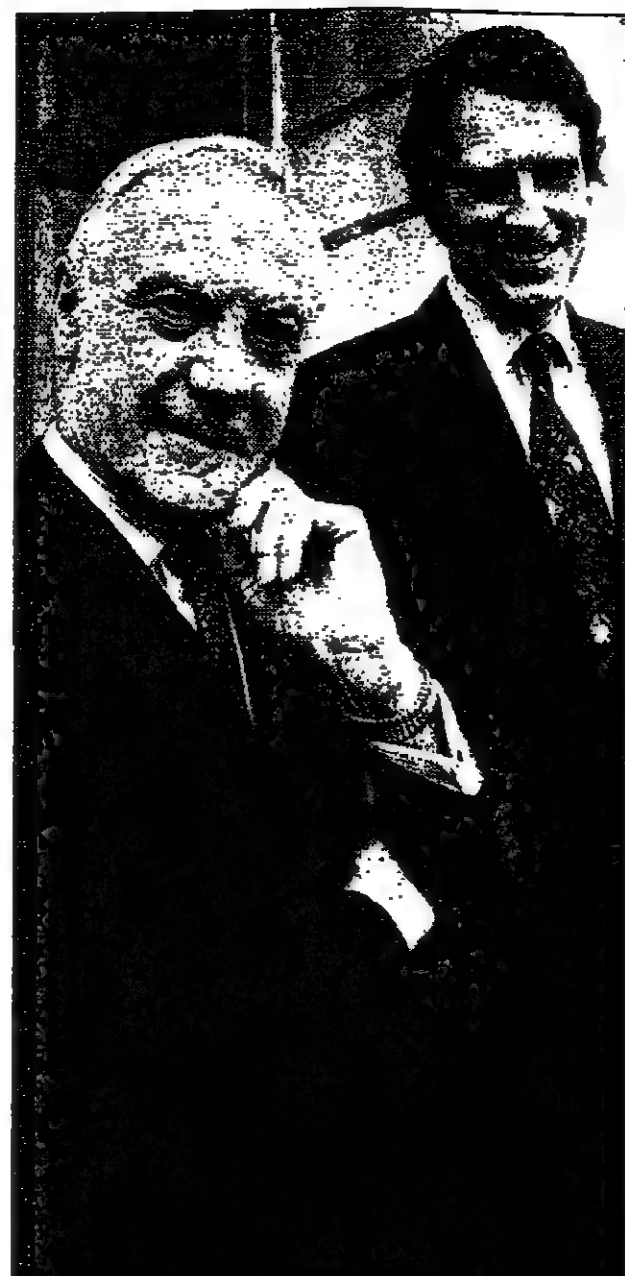
Write downs hit MEPC

MEPC, Britain's second largest property company, has reported a 2.3 per cent drop in net assets per share to 608p (Matthew Bond writes).

Sir Christopher Benson, chairman, said market conditions in the 12 months to end-September had been the worst he had experienced. He and James Tuckey, the managing director, were cautious about the pace and timing of any recovery. "The worst of the recession may be over but the recovery, when it comes, may take some time to work through to rising property values," Sir Christopher said.

MEPC's net asset value was hit by falling investment property values, write downs on the carrying value of its developments and higher gearing. An external revaluation of the investment portfolio produced a 13 per cent reduction in value to £2.9 billion, despite a 13 per cent rise in net rental income to £308 million. In Britain the biggest fall in values came in the City, where values fell 18 per cent. MEPC refused to quantify the level of write downs on its development properties, the biggest of which is Alban Gate, the 400,000 sq ft office block spanning the City's London Wall. With gearing rising from 42 per cent to 70 per cent, MEPC's net interest charge rose 68 per cent to £79.7 million, after £39.6 million had been capitalised. The higher interest charge caused pre-tax profits to fall from £150 million to £143 million, with higher interest charge. But with the development programme now nearing its end, capital commitments have fallen from £415 million to £189 million.

The final dividend rose 1p to 14.75p to make a total of 20p (19p).



Cautious about the timing of a recovery: Sir Christopher (left) and Mr Tuckey yesterday

Tempus, page 28

Carlton Gate receivers appointed

RECEIVERS have been appointed to Carlton Gate, one of west London's largest residential property developments, which narrowly escaped receivership in February last year when it was refinanced after the collapse of its joint owner, the Declan Kelly Group.

The luxury £60 million housing estate, envisaged as 585 flats on the banks of Regent's canal in Maida Vale, west London, was refinanced after the Declan Kelly collapse by Eagle Star and a consortium of banks led by Security Pacific.

Carlton Gate's new owners finished the first 282 flats of the development in August this year and contracts have been exchanged on 133 of them. Work on further phases of the development had not started because of the property recession.

Price Waterhouse, the receivers, yesterday said the decision to place Carlton Gate in receivership was taken following the breakdown of negotiations between the company and John Mowlem, the construction company, which was dismissed as contractor on the development.

Mowlem had issued a writ claiming £1 million for unpaid work and served a notice of arbitration on the development company following its dismissal. Price Waterhouse said yesterday: "Carlton Gate was advised that it was likely to succeed in the arbitration. However, the company could not justify or finance the escalating costs of bringing the proceedings to a conclusion."

Stirling unveils terms for merger with Ritz Design

By MATTHEW BOND

SHARES in Ritz Design jumped 15p to 200p as Stirling Group unveiled the terms of an agreed merger of the two womenswear suppliers.

Stirling is offering Ritz shareholders 27 new shares for every five Ritz shares they own. After an early 15p drop in the Stirling share price, this valued each Ritz share at 213p and valued the company at £19.2 million. Stirling is also offering a cash alternative of 200p. Ritz shareholders will also be able to keep an unchanged interim dividend of 1.6p, announced yesterday along with an 86 per cent fall in interim pre-tax profits.

Shareholders accounting for 54.4 per cent of Ritz's shares have given undertakings to accept the offer, although institutions accounting for 31.4 per cent have reserved the right to accept any higher offer.

Ritz had been looking for a buyer since the summer, when it emerged that Michael Bancroft, then chairman and a 21 per cent shareholder in the company, and Tony Cartwright, the finance director, had used £650,000 of the company's money for unauthorised personal expenditure.

Both men resigned and have given commitments to repay the money. Under the terms of yesterday's offer, an unspecified proportion of the money Mr Bancroft will receive as consideration for his

shares will be paid to Ritz in full and final settlement of the money owed.

The merger brings together two companies in very similar businesses. Ritz supplies Marks & Spencer with blouses and underwear, while Stirling produces trousers, skirts, swimwear and nightwear and also supplies M&S.

Supplying M&S will account for 70 per cent of the newly merged company.

Richard Clemons, who has been the acting chairman of Ritz since the departure of Mr Bancroft, said: "The merger of Ritz and Stirling, with their complementary product ranges, will make the resulting group a leading clothing supplier to Marks & Spencer and will create opportunities for considerable cost savings."

News of the merger was accompanied by interim results from both companies. In the six months to end-September Stirling's pre-tax profits rose 90 per cent to £581,000, with earnings per share rising from 0.5p to 1.03p. The interim dividend is unchanged at 8.5p.

Ritz's profits, however, fell sharply in the six months to end-September, sliding from £855,000 to £186,000, while earnings per share fell from 6.2p to 1.4p. With the £355,000 loss on closing its retail shops dividend included in a £327,000 extraordinary item, Ritz reported an attributable loss of £348,000.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Unit	Offer	+	-	%	Unit	Offer	+	-	%	Unit	Offer	+	-	%	Unit	Offer	+	-	%
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Solvay and Laporte to end link

By Wolfgang Münchau

LAPORTE and Solvay & Cie, the British and Belgian chemical firms, will end their 20-year partnership by splitting up Interco, their joint venture company which is the world's largest manufacturer of hydrogen peroxide, a bleaching agent used in detergents.

Under the deal, Interco — which has operations in 20 countries and a turnover of about £400 million — will be transferred to Solvay. Laporte will in return acquire from Solvay the smaller part of the Interco business, which produces organic peroxides and persulphates, specialist catalysts used in the production of plastics and for metal treatment.

The deal will also see two thirds of Solvay's 25 per cent shareholding in Laporte cancelled and the remainder placed with institutional shareholders.

Ken Minton, chief executive of Laporte, said the deal took account of Laporte's evolution from a bulk chemical producer into a specialist chemical firm. "A quarter of Interco fits very well, but three quarters of the business

is very heavy capital intensive and does not fit with the Laporte of the future," he said.

The manufacturing plants of Interco's specialty chemicals division are located near Munich, in southern Germany. The one that now employs 600 will become Laporte's largest worldwide.

The joint venture was established in 1970, through the merger of each partner's peroxide products. The British company was then under a takeover threat and was rescued when Solvay emerged as a white knight.

The specialty division of Interco has a turnover of about £65 million. The business will be integrated into Laporte's organic specialty chemicals division.

Interco comprises 12 principal companies and nine associates, which operate 56 production units worldwide. Total hydrogen peroxide production capacity is 400,000 tonnes per annum.

Laporte is Britain's third largest specialty chemicals firm, with a pre-tax profit of £103 million last year on a turnover of £649 million.

Ultramar sees recovery

By Graham Searjeant
FINANCIAL EDITOR

ULTRAMAR, the gas production and oil distribution group fighting a one-for-one share offer from Lasmo, has projected a dramatic recovery to net profits of £126 million in 1992. This would follow a fall from £112 million to a forecast £9 million this year and would be equivalent to 1992 earnings of 34p per share.

The projected 1992 profit, which Ultramar emphasised was not a forecast, did not stop its shares falling 9p to 323p. But this price is still 36p ahead of the offer from Lasmo, whose shares fell by 5p to 287p.

An independent valuation of Ultramar's gas and oil assets has put them at £1.63 billion, equivalent to £4.39 per share before deduction of its £772 million debt. The valuation includes £100 million of stocks in North America.

Ultramar consequently calculated that Lasmo's bid valued its Californian refinery interests and its Canadian refining and distribution system at only £233 million. These distribution businesses made a loss of £1.7 million in the first nine months of this year but made a £106 million operating profit in the same period last year.

Ultramar has also given details of its plan to raise £350 million to reduce its gearing below 50 per cent. It plans to sell a one-third interest in the Sanga Sanga contract in Indonesia, its most



Hopes for next year: Jean Gaulin of Ultramar

important mature gas production business, on top of previously announced disposal plans.

Jean Gaulin, Ultramar's chief executive, said that the 1992 profit projection showed what might be achieved by a return to more normal trading conditions in North

America and included a forecast for the company's oil and gas interests in Indonesia and the North Sea.

Chris Greentree, chief executive of Lasmo, said the sale of the Indonesian interest in a difficult market would affect Ultramar's best cash-producing asset.

Losses at the Royal Bank of Scotland

By Jonathan Prynn

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group (RBS) fell into losses in the second half of the year after making huge provisions for bad debts and restructuring costs. It was the first deficit that the bank has recorded for any reporting period in recent memory.

Pre-tax profits for the 12 months to end-September were £57.7 million compared with £72.4 million for the first half and £262.2 million for the whole of last year. Provisions for bad and doubtful debts rose from £193.8 million to £351.1 million.

George Younger, the chairman, said he hoped that provisioning would be reduced this year but warned that "past experience has shown that this will lag behind economic recovery".

The bank also set aside £28.5 million to cover restructuring costs, although net exceptional charges were £18.2 million.

RBS surprised the City by announcing a 5 per cent increase in the dividend for the year to 8.8p. The final dividend was 6p. The bank said the improved payout was justified by its strong capital base. The bank's BIS ratio at the year end was 11 per cent compared with a regulatory requirement of 8 per cent.

Temps, page 28

BPB holds dividend despite downturn

BPB Industries, the building materials and packaging concern, has held the interim dividend at 4p despite further evidence of the recession in the building industry and the price war in the plasterboard industry in interim profits, which were down from £50.4 million to £24 million for the half-year to end-September.

Alan Turner, the chairman, said: "It is clear that market conditions are going to remain difficult and we find it hard to believe that our competitors will continue indefinitely with a price war which is costing the European plasterboard industry nearly £200 million a year." Temps, page 28

AAH Holdings slips

STRONGER trading from healthcare and environmental services, and reduced interest charges, could only partially offset the downturn in building materials at AAH Holdings. Pre-tax profits slipped from £16.1 million to £15.8 million in the six months to end-September, even though turnover was 10.8 per cent higher at £605.7 million. Shareholders collect an increased interim dividend of 5.4p (4.95p) funded by earnings of 15.2p per share, against 15.3 previously. The shares firmed 5p to 463p.

Air France stake

BANQUE Nationale de Paris, the French state-owned bank, yesterday confirmed plans to take a stake in Air France, the national airline. Under an agreement with Air France, BNP will take an 8.8 per cent stake for an injection of Fr1.25 billion in new capital. As part of the deal, BNP will issue an eight-year convertible bond, paying 6.5 per cent per annum. The European Commission last week cleared a Fr2 billion injection by the French government into the loss-making state airline.

Voilex buys cable firm

VOILEX Group is buying Cable Products, a maker of moulded data cable assemblies and interconnect devices with interests in Ireland. In a deal that could be a worth a maximum of \$25.9 million. The initial consideration, to be financed by a 3.6 million share placing at 225p, is \$14.6 million, but the terms include additional profit-related payments.

Cautious payout at South West

By Graham Searjeant, FINANCIAL EDITOR

SOUTH West Water, which has asked its regulator for increased price limits, has made the lowest increase in dividend yet seen among the privatised water groups. Its interim dividend rises 6.3 per cent, from 6.7p to 7.1p per share, somewhat less than envisaged in the original price regime. South West shares, which have come under pressure recently, fell a further 8p to 318p.

Unlike the nine other companies, South West has been obliged to ask Ian Byatt, the director general of water services, for an immediate review of its price limits because it is affected more severely by extra costs of implementing the EC municipal waste water directive, issued since privatisation. Mr Byatt must reach a decision before the end of the year.

Robert Miller-Bakewell of County Natwest said the dividend appeared to have been held back deliberately, but

South West indicated that the interim payment might not be a pointer for the full year.

In the six months to end September, South West raised pre-tax profit by 1.5 per cent to £47.1 million, with earnings up from 35.7p to 36.1p per share. Keith Court, the chairman, said that £98 million of the year's target of £180 million capital spending had been committed by the end of September.

South West has paid an initial £4.5 million in new South West shares for Cops Holdings, a company making products for effluent treatment and control of control of effluent discharges. The payment could rise to a maximum of £19.5 million in further shares or loan stock if Cops profits run substantially ahead of projections for the years up to March 1994. In the year to October 1, Cops's turnover was more than £3 million. Latest profits were about £900,000.

Caledonia Investments falls 9% to £17.4m

CALEDONIA Investments, the investment group which earlier this month backed a £155 million management buyout of Bristow Helicopters, has seen interim pre-tax profits fall by 9 per cent to £17.4 million for the six months to end-September. Income from investment dropped from £11.6 million to £9.5 million as a result of the reduction in the group's holding of British & Commonwealth preference

shares. Income from the rest of the company's investments rose, but net interest receivable fell from £7.9 million to £7.7 million because of the lower interest rates prevailing during the period.

The company said that it would maintain "a measured approach to investment" in the light of the "prevailing economic and political uncertainties". The interim dividend is increased from 4.5p to 4.8p.

COMPANY BRIEFS

PENNY & GILES (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.12m (£1.25m)
EPS: 8.02p (8.52p)
Div: 1.53p (1.45p)

BROWN & TAWSE (Int)
Pre-tax: Loss £181,000
EPS: 0.5p (EPS: 4.8p)
Div: 2.85p (2.85p)

TOMORROWS LEISURE
Pre-tax: £222,000
EPS: 2.7p (2.7p)
Div: Nil (nil)

NARBOROUGH PLANTS
Pre-tax: £153,000
EPS: 0.74p (1.68p)
Div: 10p, mkg 15% (15%)

GRAMPIAN TV (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.34m (£1.15m)
EPS: 5.61p (4.89p)
Div: 1.0p (0.70p)

CASTINGS (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.7m (£1.55m)
EPS: 5.5p (4.88p)
Div: 1.3p (1.2p)

WELPAC (Int)
Pre-tax: Loss £248,000
EPS: 0.78p (EPS: 0.34p)
Div: Nil (nil)

GRI INTERNATIONAL (Int)
Pre-tax: £511,000
EPS: 0.65p (5.24p)
Div: 2.47p (2.47p)

BROCKHAMPTON HDGS
Pre-tax: £1.21m (£1.61m)
EPS: 7.9p (10.4p)
Div: 1.65p (1.5p)

SCOTTISH INV TST (Fin)
Pre-tax: £16.1m (£14.8m)
EPS: 4.52p (4.07p)
Div: 2.9p, mkg 4.4p

Staff reduction costs led to an exceptional debit of £287,000. Turnover grew to £16.3 (£15.9m). British orders remain flat.

Last time's profit was £2.17m. There was an exceptional debit of £226,000. Turnover declined to £72.3m (£90.8m).

Interim results. Last time's profit was £408,000. Turnover rose to £3.58m (£2.54m). Interest receipts fell to £142,000 (£407,000).

Final results. Last time's profit was £251,000. Turnover grew 22 per cent to £372,000. Exchange loss of £48,000 (£97,000 gain).

There was an extraordinary debit of £365,000. Total costs for the application of North of Scotland licence estimated at £800,000.

Turnover rose to £16.9m (£10.9m). All companies operated below capacity for most of period, with no clear signs of upturn yet.

Last time's profit was £30,000. Turnover fell to £4.65m (£5.24m). Gearing cut to 33.4 per cent, down from 123 per cent at end-January.

Last time's profit was £3.1m. Group turnover slipped to £35.7m (£36.1m). Profits from packaging machinery up, but processing fell.

Interim results. Reorganisation costs led to an exceptional debit of £59,000. Turnover increased to £10.9m (£9.77m).

Last time's total dividend: 4.05p. The net asset value increased by 26.1 per cent to 206.2p. Total income rose by £3m to £24.5m.

ROYAL BANK EMERGES WITH CONFIDENCE IN FUTURE PROSPECTS.

"..... we firmly believe that we have the balance sheet strength, the structure and the strategy to look ahead with confidence. The directors have recommended a final dividend of 6.0p on the ordinary shares which, together with the interim dividend of 2.8p, will give a total dividend of 8.8p for the year (1990 - 8.4p)." The Rt Hon George Younger, Chairman.

PERFORMANCE

Earlier this year, I advised that the difficult trading conditions experienced in the half-year to 31st March would continue at least to the end of this year. Regrettably, this has proved to be the case and indeed the impact of the current recession on many of our customers has proved more damaging than previous estimates, and we have had to make an unprecedented level of bad debt provisions. We hope that reduced provisioning will now be seen, but past experience has shown that this will lag behind economic recovery. Accordingly, we anticipate that there will be only a gradual recovery in the coming year.

For the year to 30th September 1991, profit before taxation amounted to £57.7 million which was considerably below last year's result. However, the Bank's capital base remains one of the strongest in the United Kingdom, and this, together with our underlying profitability, has given us the capacity to absorb the historically high provisions.

DIVIDEND

Despite the economic background, we firmly believe that we have the balance sheet strength, the structure and the strategy to look ahead with confidence. The directors have recommended a final dividend of 6.0p on the ordinary shares which, together with the interim dividend of 2.8p, will give a total of 8.8p for the year (1990 - 8.4p). Once again, at the annual general meeting, we intend to seek approval to offer new shares in lieu of the cash dividend.

OUTLOOK

The past twelve months have seen far-reaching changes in our organisation. The restructuring exercise which began in the final months of 1990 has altered the Bank's shape. Many of the benefits of these changes have still to come to fruition, but most of the hard work has been

done and we are well placed now to go forward on our chosen path.

The economy is showing signs of turning around and should manifest some growth in 1992, led by a revival in consumer spending. However, we are realistic enough to accept that the legacy of an economic downturn is felt beyond the time when recovery becomes evident. Nevertheless, 1992 holds no fears for us and I look forward to the period ahead with confidence and enthusiasm.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 1991

	1991 £m	1990 £m
Profit before provisions	435.4	457.8
Profit before exceptional items	75.9	241.4
Profit before taxation	57.7	262.2
Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders	72.7*	193.6
Total assets	32,180.0	30,096.0
Total shareholders' funds	1,601.2	1,508.4
Earnings per 25p ordinary share	10.5p	21.1p
Dividends per 25p ordinary share	8.8p	8.4p

Dividend cover (times) 1.2 2.5

*after exceptional deferred tax credit of £40 million

- Wide-ranging restructuring of the Group's operations.
- Annual dividend raised by 4.8%.
- Strong capital base. BIS ratio of 11.0%.
- Staff numbers in UK commercial banking reduced by 1,200.



The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc

KINGFISHER: HIT BY SEVERAL PROFIT DOWNGRADINGS

Share price

FT all-share price index (rebased)

Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

35 40 45 50 55 60

Straits dollar	0.653-0.671	Belgium (Cont)	98.25-100.00
United States	1446.14-6.08	Canada	81.55-1.51
Cyprus pound	0.7965-0.8065	Denmark	2.200-2.42
Rainbow mark	1.709-1.765	France	51.50-5.45
Greece drachma	32.65-326.85	Germany	99.1-1.01
Hong Kong dollar	13.7074-13.7171	Hong Kong	7.533-7.574
India rupee	0.003-0.009	Ireland	36.025-1.16
Kuwait dinar KD	0.003-0.009	Italy	214.0-1.21
Malaysia ringgit	4.8579-4.8594	Japan	159.45-1.25
Mexico peso	5.585-5.685	Malaysia	2.7485-7.57
New Zealand dollar	3.176-3.186	Netherlands	2.00-2.01
Saudi Arabia riyal	0.59-0.59	Norway	0.3490-0.35
Singapore dollar	2.9317-2.9322	Portugal	143.80-1.44
S Africa rand (cont)	3.5332-3.5418	Singapore	11.07-1.07
S Africa rand (cont)	4.9382-4.9444	Spain	62.88-1.02
S A E Dirham	6.4550-6.5350	Sweden	5.0070-5.00
Banque Bank GTS - Hong Kong		Switzerland	1.235-1.43

Base Rates Clearing Banks 10% Finance Hk 10%			
Dollar Market Loans Offshore Banks	Low 10%	Weak funds:	High 10%
Treasury Bills (Odp-Buy) 2 mth 10% 13 mth 10%	10% 10%	10% 10%	10% 10%

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Ddp)	10% ^a -10%	10% ^a -10%	10% ^a -10%	10% ^a -10%	10% ^a -10%
Clearing Money Rates	10% ^a -10%	10% ^a -10%	10% ^a -10%	10% ^a -10%	10% ^a -10%
Overnight open 10% close 10%	10% ^a -10%	10% ^a -10%	10% ^a -10%	10% ^a -10%	10% ^a -10%

Local Authority Depos.	10%	n/a	10%	10%	10%
Storting CDs	10% ^a -10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Dollar CDs	5.175-12	4.98-4.93	4.90-4.85	4.85-4.80	4.97-4.47
Bidling Society CDs	10% ^a -12	10%	10%	10%	10%

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Malaysia dep Nov 29, 1991 Agency rates Dec 25, 1991 to Jan 25, 1992 Schemes I, II, 17.4%, Schemes III & IIII: 11.7% Reference rate Nov 1, 1991 to Nov 29, 1991 Schemes IV & V: 10.519%

ELBA	
Currency	7 day
Dollar	4.41-4.46
Deutsche mark	5.1-5.1
Pound franc	9.0-9.0
Swiss franc	7.7-7.7
Yen	6.7-6.7

	3 mth	6 mth	9 mth	12 mth
Dollar	4.41-4.46	4.41-4.46	4.41-4.46	4.41-4.46
Deutsche mark	5.1-5.1	5.1-5.1	5.1-5.1	5.1-5.1
Pound franc	9.0-9.0	9.0-9.0	9.0-9.0	9.0-9.0
Swiss franc	7.7-7.7	7.7-7.7	7.7-7.7	7.7-7.7
Yen	6.7-6.7	6.7-6.7	6.7-6.7	6.7-6.7

Bullion: Open \$367.3-367.8	Close \$365.9-366.3	High \$367.2-367.7
Low \$365.3-365.7	Range\$365.2-366.2	\$260.6-207.01

Jobless facts and figures

For the 2,600 people who lost their jobs in announcements yesterday from BREL, DAF, British Coal and elsewhere, John Major's claim on the anniversary of his arrival in 10 Downing Street that Britain is now moving into an economic upturn will have something of a hollow ring. The prime minister's buoyant assessment of the economy sits unhappily with the continuing toll of job cuts.

Yesterday's job losses were particularly large for a single day. But they were far from wholly out of line with the gloomy series of headcount announcements that companies are still having to make. But what is looking increasingly odd is the gap between redundancies on this scale and what is happening in the official monthly jobless figures. Yesterday's losses, for example, amount on their own to about a sixth of the entire officially recorded unemployment increase last month of 15,700.

The credibility of the unemployment figures took a battering in the Eighties, with 30-odd revisions to their statistical basis. Since then, their standing has stabilised. But the satisfaction that ministers now bring to the broadly downward trend of the monthly figures and the increasingly optimistic assessments about the end of the recession they draw from them fit poorly with what many managers on the ground and their employees believe are the prospects of more job losses.

Government statisticians acknowledge that they do not yet properly understand the implications for the UK labour market that the recent low increases in unemployment seem to carry. There is no suggestion that the published unemployment figures are anything other than scrupulously accurate statistical assessments. But the gap between the daily and depressing count of heads rolling and the more upbeat official figures is widening, and if the government is not careful, it may become a gap that will be best measured not by statisticians with their computers but by the electorate at the polls.

Busy lines for BT

Institutional investors have responded to the recent falls in BT's share price, for which they were largely responsible, by showing impressive interest in the government's share sale at the new lower level. If all the tentative bids already received were translated into firm bids, the maximum possible allocation to the institutional tender would be virtually subscribed before the marketing roadshow finishes trailing round the continent and heads for Japan. If, as seems likely, the institutions are allocated less than 50 per cent of the higher limit on the number of shares for sale, that part of the offer is already oversubscribed.

These eggs cannot yet be counted as chickens. If the BT price continued yesterday's recovery and climbed back to 370p, some of the demand would, perversely, fall away. The early support is still comforting to the Treasury and its advisers, who want the public to buy an unprecedented amount of stock for a privatisation in a secondary issue that inevitably lacks the excitement and hopes of big instant gains that the public has come to expect in privatisations aimed at the mass of the public.

So far, there is every indication that the public is not satiated. More than 5 million people are registered and the latest survey shows that the numbers of would-be shareholders is still swelling fast. The electricity flotations brought in a new generation of small investors to add to those who cut their stock market teeth on British Gas and the initial BT float.

How Maastricht must work to cut Europe's dole queues

John Banham, head of the CBI, argues that peace at any price at next month's summit would hit Europe's 13 million unemployed

For many UK businesses, Europe is the home market. In the last ten years, they have invested £15 billion on the Continent, about £800 for every household in Britain. More than 60 per cent of the goods they supplied last year — worth £100 million every working day — went to EC or EFTA markets.

Like the rest of Europe's businesses, they look forward to a successful outcome from the Maastricht summit — one that will create more opportunities for everyone. We welcome the prospect of a single currency. We welcome, too, the European Court and parliament having greater powers to secure even enforcement of the laws, regulations and directives that have already been agreed. We do not want to see a Europe where obeying the law is a sometime thing.

"Peace at any price" at Maastricht would be a cruel deception, however, for the Community's 13 million unemployed and for the people of central Europe struggling to manage the transition from a command to a free-market economy. A preoccupation with social policy and workers' rights could result in higher unemployment and protectionism. There are signs of falling competitiveness and the protectionism that inevitably follows: EC exports have fallen 6 per cent in volume since 1985 during a period of strong growth in world trade; the Community's trade deficit with the rest of the world is three times as great as in 1985; while 60 per cent of Polish exports to the Community face substantial tariff barriers.

There is no point discussing workers' rights when there is no work. We cannot expect to legislate an improved standard of living for ourselves, or expect dividends on investments we have not made. We have to earn the opportunities that we want to share. It is better to concentrate on increasing the size of the cake rather than on ways of dividing it up. We should look very carefully at measures that seem likely to restrict opportunities rather than create them. That is why the Confederation of British Industry is opposed to those elements of the social action programme that will inevitably add to costs and reduce flexibility and jobs.

The United Kingdom government is right to insist on the principle of subsidiarity: an unlovely Euro-world that means matters should only be decided in Brussels if they cannot sensibly be determined at a national or local level.

Working conditions, information and consultation, working time and matters that affect the relationship



A lengthening European dole queue: John Banham says EC plans will worsen the situation

between employees and their employers, are best determined at the workplace. Not through some horse-trading process in Brussels, where the traders have no mandate to negotiate, no authority to make an agreement "stick", and even less ability to police its enforcement. The record of many EC countries in implementing Euro-legislation is less than reassuring: too many of our competitors are propped up by illegal subsidies, state aids or protectionist barriers.

CBI members are not interested in charades. We experienced plenty of those during the unfruitful corporate state era of discussions with the Trades Union Congress, which had no mandate from its members and could not "deliver" when it mattered. What employers want is better initial shaping of directives. We want to be better able to challenge proposals that would cost jobs and damage business performance. What the CBI does not want at any price is EC-level collective bargaining, leading to agreements that bind companies.

In the UK today, industrial disputes are at a 50-year low, average personal consumption is higher than in any other EC country except Luxembourg, female participation in the workforce is second only to Denmark and twice as high as Spain. Three out of four private sector employees see no need even to belong to a trade union.

The best-managed companies communicate directly with all their employees, rather than relying on trade unions to do it for them.

The latest working time proposals are a good example of the problem that confronts us. Limits on daily hours, weekly hours, days off, deals on holidays — all these can only damage jobs, customer services and the wealth generation necessary to meet social needs. We are faced with

rigidity where there should be flexibility, uniformity where there should be diversity, and legislation and regulation where there should be competition and choice.

This kind of social engineering is earning the European Commission the gratitude of Europe's competitors. It defies comprehension that the Commission can dream up such proposals — and that Europe's parliamentarians can support them when Europe is losing its share of world trade. Small wonder that a Japanese industrialist, asked what he thought of the EC Social Action Programme, replied: "If you want to commit commercial suicide, why should that be any concern of mine?"

The draft Working Time Directive to be discussed by Europe's Social Affairs ministers next Tuesday, has been objectionable from the start. It involves a cynical abuse of health and safety law to push through restrictions on flexible working arrangements. It deals at European level with matters that do not belong there: key elements have never been properly discussed with employers or employees.

Hard practical evidence is emerging about the dangers of such proposals to business, jobs and earnings.

Leading British industries would be hard hit by limits on the working week. Many people work longer than the 48-hour maximum proposed, in coal mining, civil engineering, farming, banking, food manufacturing, business services and the leisure industry. Others are deeply concerned about the proposed moratorium on Sunday working. It is not just Britain's retailers that will be hit, but a range of production and service industries, which need seven-day working to be competitive.

Seven-day working, 24 hours a day, is the only way many printers can pay for their massive invest-

ments. It is the only way for them to meet customers "just in time" ordering requirements. What is true for printing is true for other capital intensive businesses like pre-cast concrete and steel mills. It would be greatly disruptive to the leisure and tourist industries.

The proposed compulsory 11-hour break each day would prevent vital maintenance on car plant production lines — at a potential cost of £500,000 for every hour the line is stopped. Steel companies will not be able to commission massive new plant under these conditions.

In textiles, limits on weekly hours and disruption to shift patterns, will inevitably result in business being lost to Taiwan, South Korea, Mexico, Indonesia and other countries — where wages are a fraction of those paid in the UK.

Europe risks becoming more inward looking, protectionist and uncompetitive. That is the surest route to the worst discrimination of all: fewer opportunities for those who seek them. We want an open, free and competitive Europe: a Europe of opportunity for all, the single market's social dimension must provide a sound basis for economic growth and the incentive for employers to create jobs.

When the prime minister resists the clamour for "peace at any price" in Maastricht, he deserves the support of all those concerned for the future. He will certainly carry the good wishes of Europe's businesses, determined to compete successfully in an increasingly tougher world. We cannot afford to be marking time on the road to monetary union, let alone exploring expensive and irrelevant social engineering concepts recycled from the failures of the Seventies.

The author is director-general of the Confederation of the British Industry

Packer keeps the City guessing

Kerry Packer, Australia's richest man, is a bluff, tough character who loves a challenge. He showed his determination by taking up the young man's game of polo in recent years to become a better than average player. Not bad for someone who turns 54 in December.

He even shrugged off a heart attack earlier this year to be back on his feet within days. But there is one thing that the magazine and television owner hates — publicity.

He has long had a love-hate relationship with the media that has underscored the reaction to his part in the bid for the John Fairfax newspaper group. Much of this dates back to reports in *The Age*, a Melbourne broadsheet, which is a Fairfax newspaper, relating to a royal commission in the 1980s. He identified himself as the person referred to by the codename Goanna but denied any wrongdoing.

He was subsequently publicly exonerated by Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, but has been camera-shy ever since. Hence the surprise when he agreed last month to appear before a federal parliamentary print media inquiry. Apparently he found out too late that the session would be on national television. It made engrossing viewing and Mr Packer was hailed as a TV star. But it was probably the last straw.

Officially he has quit the Touring consortium, which is bidding for Fairfax, because of the potential damage caused by an inquiry into the cross-media issues in the bid. But the feeling is that he did not want to face yet another public examination.

The fate of the Fairfax papers has become an emotive national issue. The question of foreign ownership, via Canadian Conrad Black and Irishman Tony O'Reilly, has been raised.

But it is Mr Packer who has borne the brunt of hostility. Journalists from *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald* have waged a consistent campaign against him, claiming his involvement would narrow the range of newspaper ownership in the country. They insist he has a track record as an interventionist owner and would exert direct authority if Touring won Fairfax.

The journalists' fears were backed by federal back-bench MPs on both sides of the House who signed a petition protesting against any increase in concentration of media ownership. Until now Mr Packer had refused to buckle under the pressure. First Trevor Kennedy, the former head of Packer's own company, quit as chief executive of Touring. He said he left because of the perception that he was still linked to his old boss.

Then merchant banker and lawyer Malcolm Turnbull, of *Spycatcher* fame, became the next victim. He, too, had been tagged as a Packer associate.

So it is ironic that after these "obstacles" were removed, Mr Packer himself decided to go. His own thoughts on the matter are, as ever, private.

BRIAN BUCHANAN
Sydney

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Elwes beats the drum

LONDON risks losing its place as the world's premier stock market unless it unites against pressure from Europe. The warning comes from Nigel Elwes, the former Rowe & Pitman partner, who helped shape the London Stock Exchange into its present form before his retirement this March. He is back in the City to take on the chairmanship of Reyker Securities, the Peps specialist. "We probably have the best securities market in the world," says Elwes, aged 50, an old Etonian and former stock exchange council member, who went on to refine the market after Big Bang as head of the Elwes committee. "But we may lose out unless we can present a unified front against Europe." He takes over at Reyker from Nicholas Freeman, the founder. Elwes, who was formerly finance director of SG Warburg Securities, has close links with the Hambro and Alpine families. His wife, Carolyn, is the only daughter of Sir Robin McAuliffe.

Alive and kicking

MICHAEL Beckett, acting chairman of Ultramar, the oil company on the receiving end of a £1.16 billion hostile bid from Lascro, is most put out by suggestions that he committed "suicide" by writing a frank letter to shareholders concerning directors' pay. "I am alive and kicking," he told a friend after his letter was described as a "suicide note" in the press this week. As for reports that his salary is



being trimmed from near £21,500 to about £17,500, he claims his greatest worry at present is trying to get some Australian associates to pay for tickets he provided for the Rugby world cup.

CHAMPAGNE flowed at the offices of Barclays de Zoete Wedd yesterday to mark the retirement of Jinty Price, top-rated chemicals analyst, who is retiring ahead of the birth of her second child. Price, once the youngest partner at de Zoete & Bevan in the pre-Big Bang days, took over as head of chemicals research from Howard Coates who went on to run BZW's research department and is now deputy chairman of BZW Equities.

Switched on

HARROW is set to become the first public school to go private for its electricity supplies if a current project bears fruit. The school is re-negotiating its supply contract with the Eastern Electricity Board and is tipped to strike a deal with National Power or PowerGen, the recently privatised

generating companies, in 1993. "In the new competitive market, major savings in the cost of electricity can be achieved which makes the investment more viable," says Doug Colton of the Construction Engineering Bureau, which is looking at ways of consolidating Harrow's electricity supplies into a single source. The Electricity Act allows consumers of more than 1,000 kilowatts to negotiate direct with generators or distributors as long as a single point of supply is used.

Russell's cause

MORE than 200 City dignitaries were due at the Barbican Theatre, London, last night, for the British premiere of *Curly Sue*, the American box-office hit that grossed \$17 million in its first three days. The screening marks the climax of a fund-raising campaign by Neville Russell, the accountant, which has raised £100,000 for Save the Children since June. The money will be used to build two colleges and 20 schools in Orissa, a badly depressed area of north-eastern India. "We have raised the equivalent of 5 million rupees," says James Mendelsohn, the firm's marketing partner, who visited India last month. "If you bear in mind that the average daily wage in Orissa is only eight rupees, you can appreciate the impact this money will have. Looked at another way, the price of a bottle of champagne in a typical City wine bar would pay the wages of one man for four months." Unless you're drinking Krug, of course...

JON ASHWORTH

BUSINESS LETTERS

Eroding interests of customers

From Mr John Warner
Sir, Despite the fact that we bank with Lloyds Bank, your item published on November 1 under the headline "Barclays plans secret bonus cut" caused me to check our recent bank statements. Sure enough, up until April this year we have been receiving "charges relief" against our bank charges. This has now mysteriously stopped and, although fairly small amounts are involved, I decided to ask my branch why it no longer gave us this relief.

The reply to my first letter ignored the question but the reply from their business centre manager to my second letter repeating the query was illuminating. "Unfortunately, I cannot offer an explanation as to why you no longer receive charges relief on your credit balances except to say this was a Lloyds Bank Group decision, and I believe that it is in line with

tariffs offered by other competitors."

Needless to say we were given no notice of this change in policy and have been needlessly keeping an unnecessarily large balance on our current account in the anticipation of receiving this relief.

We believe that this is yet another example of the clearing banks taking advantage of the smaller business and would be interested to know whether all the high street banks have now withdrawn this, or similar, allowance in the spirit of "competition".

Thank you for pointing out yet another example of banks working against the interests of their customers. Yours faithfully JOHN WARNER, Director, Bole Properties Ltd, "Courlands", 40 Copperkings Lane, Chesham Bois, Amersham, Bucks.

Dire consequences

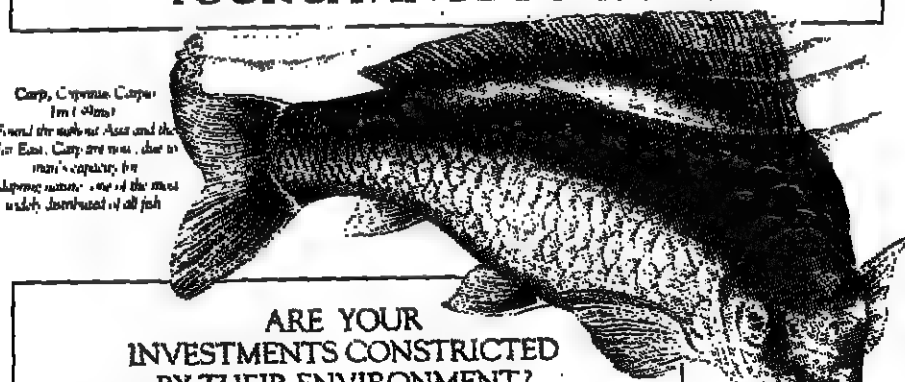
From Jean Lecoche
Sir, If John Major agrees to the Dutch draft treaty for consideration at Maastricht, the consequences for British industry may be dire. Sensible workplace agreements over pay and hours could be ruled out to be replaced by decree from the Continent. In many industries this would restrict Britain's ability to compete on price with rivals like Germany where higher productivity and capital investment give them a current advantage. Anything which denies us the flexibility to generate sales and profits means that current German advantages may be locked in for the foreseeable future. JEAN LECOCHÉ, 14 Upper Third Avenue, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.

Fading red screen

From Mr John Bate-Williams
Sir, The Chancellor must be encouraged by the photograph in the Business section last week, showing four City dealers working anxiously in front of their screens. Not one of them is wearing a pair of the jolly red braces which have been part of the City uniform in recent years. Does this not confirm that real growth must be taking place? Yours faithfully JOHN BATE-WILLIAMS 1 Temple Gardens, EC4.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

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No gold medal for Spain's economy

IF THERE is a relationship between the Olympic Games and the stock markets, it is this: countries that held the Games experienced a substantial increase in their domestic stock market in the same year, often 25 per cent.

Next year, it is Spain's turn to hold the Olympics and the Expo, and Spanish brokers and economists predict a substantial upwards revaluation of the Spanish market. The two events are not necessarily related: Spain looks cheap against main markets in Europe, brokers say, and certainly cheap relative to its earnings index.

As elsewhere, the trends in the stock market and the real economy run in opposite directions. While it may be true that Spain's market will rise next year, it is far more certain that the underlying economy will continue to weaken, certainly in the first half. In Spain's case, the forecasts for annual growth are for less than 3 per cent. For a country whose economy must converge quickly with that of northern Europe to prepare for the single currency by the end of the decade, the current

As Spain prepares to spread its wings for the Olympic Games, Wolfgang Münchau discusses the tough prospects for the country's economy

performance must be deeply disappointing.

What makes Spanish economic policy so difficult is the peseta. The government faces a similar choice as Britain did last year, when sterling entered the exchange rate mechanism. After the recent turmoil in the international currency markets, there has been much speculation that



Solchaga: risk strategy

the Spanish government may move the peseta to the narrow band of the exchange rate mechanism next week, just ahead of the Maastricht summit. While this would establish Spain and Carlos Solchaga, the finance minister, as "good Europeans" at a single stroke, the strategy carries substantial risks.

A narrowing of the margin for the peseta will almost invariably occur around its central range, which would mean devaluation of around 3 per cent against the mark. To achieve this, the Bank of Spain, which recently gained more independence — to the applause of the Bundesbank — would be forced to reduce interest rates from their present 12.5 per cent. So much for independence.

Spanish retail inflation is likely to rise because of tax increases. That means that real interest rates are headed for a low 2-2.5 per cent, a level that might be beneficial for growth, but is likely to be inconsistent with exchange rate stability within the ERM, where real interest rates are between twice and three times that level.

Redundancies may be the only key to survival of Europe's car industry

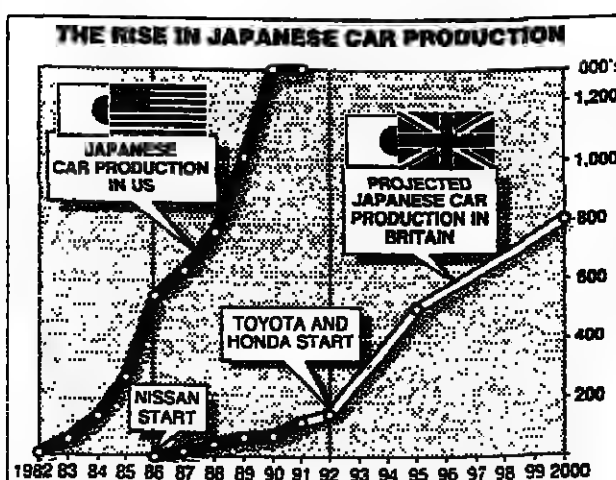
Learning from Japan's US test drive

IF CAR company executives were wondering where to find answers to questions about the future of the British motor industry, they need have looked no further than the satisfied smile of Terry Hogg, Nissan's director of production control, this week.

Mr Hogg was a guest speaker at Productivity 2000, a conference attended by Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, and at which Sir Graham Day, former chairman of Rover and now chairman of British Aerospace, was also a speaker.

Sir Graham could boast of a car business that has improved productivity by almost 300 per cent in ten years to become one of the most efficient manufacturers in Europe. Rover has set a goal of an improvement of an additional 30 per cent in the next five years. Ford also needs a 30 per cent improvement in its UK factories just to reach the benchmark provided by continental competitors — in effect, running to stand still.

Nissan's £700 million plant at Washington, Tyne & Wear, is already there. Mr Hogg told the Birmingham



conference that Nissan, with just 3,000 people, will make 124,000 cars this year. By the mid-Nineties, the three Japanese "transplants", Nissan, Honda and Toyota, should be making about 500,000 cars a year with a British workforce of about 10,000. Ford makes about that number of vehicles with nearly four times as many workers.

The impact will be enormous on Rover, Ford and Vauxhall unless they can shed thousands of jobs and raise productivity at their

factories and in component suppliers. As many as half the cars built by the Japanese transplants could be sold in the UK. With the market unlikely to revive to the 1989 record sale of 2.3 million new cars at least until the middle of the decade, the Japanese will make conquests at the expense of the existing players.

If executives at Britain's "big three" manufacturers want to know what will happen unless they react quickly, they only have to look across the Atlantic. Within a

decade of opening plants in America, the Japanese have captured a third of the market. Four Japanese cars were in October's list of the top ten best-selling models. America's best seller is the Honda Accord, made in America.

The Japanese are capable of making 1.3 million cars a year in America and have started exporting back to Japan and sending cars to Britain. Honda is exporting about 5,000 Accord estate cars annually to the UK.

Potential output from the Japanese bases in America will be near to two million cars soon, further threatening the security of domestic industry. More than 250,000 jobs have been shed in the industry in America during the past decade, and another 750,000 jobs are estimated to have been lost among component makers, in spite of the addition of six plants by the Japanese. Analysts forecast financial losses this year for the American big three, Ford, General Motors and Chrysler, of \$5.75 billion.

In America, Jim Crote, international editor for Automotive News, said yesterday:

"We owe a debt to the Japanese for the improvement we have seen in products made here in America. But their influence and power is now disproportionate and we are seeing huge dislocation in the economy and the arrival of Japanese component makers."

The influence of the Japanese will be just as great in Britain, with Honda holding a 20 per cent share in Rover. Britain's last independent mass manufacturer, and Ford and Vauxhall both vulnerable to a sales attack as the Japanese transplants move towards making up to 800,000 cars annually by the turn of the century.

A measure of the fear sweeping through the industry has been the remarkably smooth passage of recent negotiations with unions. Ford unions are ready to settle for wage increases of 5 per cent for 29,000 manual workers.

Vauxhall is set for a similar deal, while Rover is negotiating a radical change in working practices.

KEVIN EASON
Motoring Correspondent

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Oslo braced for banking shake-out

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

DEN norske Bank, the leading player in Norway's deeply troubled banking sector, said yesterday it was negotiating the takeover of Realkredit, the country's biggest credit institution, which specialises in mortgages and lending to industry. Shares and bonds in the two loss-making companies were suspended on the Oslo bourse.

The takeover move pre-empted a fresh bid by the second-largest Norwegian bank, Christiania Bank og Kreditkasse, which aborted a bid for Realkredit last March. Kreditkasse is now technically bankrupt.

Accompanying its announcement, DnB said it was also seeking an injection of cash to boost its capital. Increased capital adequacy requirements have added to the woes of the Norwegian banks, which have run into a wall of bad debt as the onshore economy has slowed sharply.

The depth of the banks' problems, which have forced the state to step in to prop up the banking system, has surprised market analysts, who had assumed that the strong performance of the offshore sector would be sufficient to

offset the risks onshore. DnB's move is seen as part of the inevitable shakeout in an overbanked country.

The merger would provide Norway with a reinforced leading bank, which would boost domestic and international confidence in the sector. If not in the whole economy. The state is likely to take over the non-performing and high risk loans on the merged company's books.

The DnB plan foresees a considerable capital increase supported by the state bank investment fund, institutional and other investors. The bank will today submit an application for additional capital from the guarantee fund for commercial banks as part of its policy of achieving the targeted capital ratio of 8 per cent. DnB has already benefited from a 1.25 billion kroner (£111 million) state rescue effort last month.

DnB made a net loss of kr2.3 billion in the first nine months, more than quadrupling the loss for the same period in last year. Realkredit showed a net loss of kr288 million in the first nine months this year, only slightly smaller than the loss a year earlier.

Osborne & Little falls but maintains payout

By JONATHAN PRYNN

OSBORNE & Little, the wallpaper and home furnishings group, has announced a 26 per cent slump in interim pretax profits to £384,000 for the six months to end-September.

The half-year dividend has been maintained at 2p and is being paid from earnings of 3.58p (4.46p).

In the UK, sales fell 6 per cent, "reflecting continuing

difficulties in the home furnishings market". Sales in America were up 11 per cent, while French turnover fell 4 per cent.

Sir Peter Osborne, the chairman, said that market conditions remained tough but that trading in September had been "encouraging". Gearing fell from 153 per cent to 138 per cent, the company added.



Dividend raised in good faith: Neil McKerron

Strength diluted at Macdonald Martin

THREE years of strong earnings growth at Macdonald Martin Distilleries, the maker of Glenmorangie single malt whisky, have come to a halt with a pre-tax profit slowdown from £5.17 million to £4.67 million in the half-year to end-September (Martin Waller writes).

But the company is raising interim dividends by 10 per cent, paying 2.2p on the A shares and 1.1p on the B equity. Neil McKerron, the managing director, said despite the reduced profits, full-year results were expected to show a "satisfactory reward" to shareholders.

Sales of Glenmorangie did not match those achieved in Britain last year, but the brand's market share remained steady. The duty-free market, however, had rebounded substantially since the first three months of 1991 with the recovery in international business travel.

Law Report November 29 1991 House of Lords

Proximity test for liability

Alcock and Others v Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police

Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Ackner, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton and Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle [Speeches November 28]

Liability for psychiatric illness depended on foreseeability and a relationship of proximity between the claimant and the defendant. Therefore, psychiatric claims by plaintiffs in close family relationships with the victims of the Hillsborough disaster were recognisable. They were based on the rebuttable presumption of love and affection normally associated with that relationship. But such claims were not to be confined to those relationships.

It was not reasonable to regard viewing scenes of a disaster on live television broadcasts as giving rise to shock. In the sense of a sudden assault on the nervous system.

The House of Lords so held dismissing an appeal by 10 plaintiffs. Mr Robert Alcock and others, from a decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Parker, Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice Nolan) (The Times May 6, 1991) 3 All ER 688 whereby the court allowed an appeal by the defendant, Mr Peter Wright, Chief Constable of the South Yorkshire Police, from an order dated July 31, 1990 of Mr Justice Hadden ([1991] 2 WLR 814). Of the 16 plaintiffs, the judge had dismissed the claims of six plaintiffs and gave judgment for ten.

Mr B. A. Hyman, QC and Mr Timothy King, QC, for the plaintiffs; Mr W. C. Woodward, QC and Mr Patrick Limb for the defendant.

LORD KEITH said that the litigation arose out of the disaster at Hillsborough Stadium, Sheffield, on April 15, 1989 when 95 people died in the crush and more than 400 were injured. South Yorkshire Police were responsible for crowd control and the chief constable had admitted liability in negligence in respect of the deaths and physical injuries.

Sixteen separate actions were brought against him by persons none of whom was present in the area where the disaster occurred, although four of them were elsewhere in the ground. All of them were connected in various ways with persons who were in that area, being related to such persons or, in one case, being a fiancée.

In most cases, the person with whom the plaintiff was concerned was killed, in other cases that person was injured, and in one case turned out to be uninjured. All the plaintiffs claimed damages for nervous shock resulting in psychiatric illness which they alleged was caused by the experi-

ences inflicted on them by the disaster.

The question of liability in negligence for what was commonly, if inaccurately, described as "nervous shock" had only twice been considered by the House of Lords, in *Bourhill v Young* ([1943] AC 42) and in *McLoughlin v O'Brian* ([1983] AC 410, 421-423) where Lord Wilberforce expressed the opinion that foreseeability did not of itself automatically give rise to a duty of care owed to a person or class of persons and that considerations of policy entered into the conclusion that such a duty existed.

It was argued for the plaintiffs that reasonable foreseeability of the risk of injury to them in the particular form of psychiatric illness was all that was required to bring home liability to the defendant.

In the ordinary case of direct physical injury suffered in an accident at work or elsewhere, reasonable foreseeability of the risk was indeed the only test that needed to be applied to determine liability. But injury by psychiatric illness was more subtle, as Lord Macmillan had observed (at p 103) in *Bourhill v Young*.

Accordingly, in addition to reasonable foreseeability, liability for injury in the particular form of psychiatric illness must depend also on a relationship of proximity between the claimant and the party said to owe the duty.

As regards the class of persons to whom a duty might be owed to take reasonable care to avoid inflicting psychiatric illness through nervous shock sustained by reason of physical injury or peril to another, it was sufficient that reasonable foreseeability should be the guide. However, the class would not be limited by reference to particular relationships such as husband and wife or parent and child.

The kinds of relationship which might involve close ties of love and affection were numerous, and it was the existence of such ties which led to mental disturbance when the loved one suffered a

catastrophe. They might be present in family relationships or those of close friendship, and might be stronger in the case of engaged couples than in that of persons who had been married to each other for many years.

It was common knowledge that such ties existed and reasonably foreseeable that those bound by them might in certain circumstances be at real risk of psychiatric illness if the loved one of the injured or put in peril. The closeness of the tie would, however, be required to be proved by the plaintiff, although no doubt would be capable of being presumed in appropriate cases.

As regards the means by which the shock was suffered, Lord Wilberforce had said in *McLoughlin v O'Brian* (at p 423) that it must come through sight or hearing of the event or of its immediate aftermath. He also said that it was surely right that the law should not compensate shock brought about by communication by a third party.

On that basis it was open to serious doubt whether *Horton v Ruane* ([1991] 3 All ER 65) and *Ravencroft v Rederiaktieselskabet Transatlantic* ([1991] 3 All ER 73) were correctly decided, since both of these cases the effective cause of the psychiatric illness would appear to have been the fact of a son's death and the news of it.

Of the present plaintiffs, Brian Harrison was present at the Hillsborough ground, both of them in the West Stand, from which they witnessed the scenes in pews 3 and 4. Brian Harrison lost two brothers, while Robert Alcock lost a brother-in-law and identified the body at the mortuary at midnight.

In neither of those cases was there any evidence of particular close ties of love or affection with the brothers or brother-in-law. The mere fact of the particular relationship was insufficient to place the plaintiff within the class of persons to whom a duty of care could be owed by defendant as being foreseeably at risk of psychi-

atric illness by reason of injury or peril to the individual concerned. The same was true of other plaintiffs who were not present at the ground and who lost brothers, or in one case a grandson.

However, Mr and Mrs Copoc, whose son was killed, would be placed in the category of members of which risk of psychiatric illness was reasonably foreseeable. Alexandra Park, who lost her fiancée, would be in the same category.

In each of those cases the closest ties of love and affection fell to be presumed from the fact of the particular relationship, and there was no suggestion of anything which might tend to rebut that presumption.

Those three all watched scenes from Hillsborough on television, but none of those depicted suffering from recognisable psychiatric illness, being excluded by the broadcasting code of ethics, a position known to the defendant.

The viewing of those scenes could not be equated with the hearing of the event or of its immediate aftermath, to use the words of Lord Wilberforce, nor could the scenes reasonably be regarded as giving rise to shock in the sense of a sudden assault on the nervous system.

They were capable of giving rise to anxiety for the safety of relatives known or believed to be present in the area affected by the crush, and that was undoubtedly so, but that was very different from seeing the fate of the relative or his condition shortly after the event. The viewing of the television scenes did not create the necessary degree of proximity.

Lord Ackner, Lord Oliver and Lord Jauncey delivered concurring opinions and Lord Lowry agreed.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard for John Pickering, Liverpool, Cuff Roberts, Liverpool, Silverman, Liverpool, Ford & Warren, Leeds, Alexander Harris & Co, Sale and Mace & Jones, Histon; Pennings for Hammond Suddards, Bradford.

Overseas earning relief

Leonard v Blanchard (Inspector of Taxes)

For the purposes of calculating an international airline pilot's overseas earnings relief for short absences from the United Kingdom under the provisions of Schedule 23 of the Finance Act 1977, his emoluments for periods in the United Kingdom when he was not working were not to be treated as "emoluments for duties performed outside the United Kingdom" by virtue of the provisions of section 184(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.

Mr Justice Hoffmann so held in the Chancery Division on November 27 dismissing an appeal by Captain Dennis Leonard from the decision of Brighton general commissioners determining assessments to Schedule E income tax made on him for the years from 1978-79 to 1984-85. The provisions of the 1977 Act giving such relief were repealed by Schedule 23 of the Finance Act 1984.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the taxpayer's case was that the emoluments he received in respect of his non-working periods

should, because of the words of exception at the end of section 184(1) of the 1970 Act, be treated as emoluments for duties performed by him outside the United Kingdom. But to bring himself within that exception the taxpayer would have to show that on days when he was not working he would, had he gone to Gatwick Airport, been employed on performing duties outside the United Kingdom. Because of the restrictions on his flying hours and other applicable regulations that would not have been the case.

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No	Company	Group	Gains or Loss
1	Honda Motor	Motor	10.00
2	ERF	Motor	10.00
3	Bentley	Motor	10.00
4	Griffiths	Motor	10.00
5	FR Group	Motor	10.00
6	Phon	Motor	10.00
7	Woodside	Oil, Gas	10.00
8	Trans World	Leisure	10.00
9	Castle Conn	Leisure	10.00
10	Hammerson	Property	10.00
11	Dalry	Food	10.00
12	Miles	Electrical	10.00
13	OCB	Electrical	10.00
14	Mid Sea Rex	Oil, Gas	10.00
15	Hawker Siddeley	Industrial	10.00
16	Laporte	Chemicals	10.00
17	Tennant	Electrical	10.00
18	Kwik Save	Food	10.00
19	Apco Wiggins	Paper, Print	10.00
20	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
21	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
22	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
23	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
24	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
25	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
26	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
27	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
28	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
29	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
30	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
31	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
32	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
33	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
34	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
35	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
36	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
37	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
38	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
39	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
40	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
41	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
42	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
43	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
44	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
45	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
46	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
47	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
48	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
49	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00
50	Wiggins	Building, Rels	10.00

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Please take into account any minor signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

High Low Company Price Net Yld % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	%	P/E
100	100	Bank of Scotland	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Ireland	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Wales	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of England	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of London	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of North America	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of New York	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Paris	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Rome	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Spain	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Sweden	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Switzerland	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of the Netherlands	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Belgium	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Luxembourg	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Austria	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Greece	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Turkey	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Egypt	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of India	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of China	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Japan	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Korea	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of South Korea	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Taiwan	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Hong Kong	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Singapore	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Malaysia	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Indonesia	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Philippines	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Thailand	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Vietnam	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Cambodia	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Laos	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Myanmar	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Brunei	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of Timor	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of East Timor	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of West Timor	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of East Timor	100	100	100	100
100	100	Bank of West Timor	100	100	100	100

BREWERIES

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	%	P/E
100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
100	100	Beck's	100	100	100	100
100	100	Brewery	100	100	100	100
100	100	Carlsberg	100	100	100	100
100	100	Guinness	100	100	100	100
100	100	Heineken	100	100	100	100
100	100	Kaiser Brewery	100	100	100	100
100	100	Lager Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Miller Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Pilsener Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Stout Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Townsend Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Wheat Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Yeast Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Barley Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Hop Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Malt Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Grain Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Seed Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Root Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Fruit Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Flower Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Herb Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Spice Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Medicine Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Wine Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Beer Wine	100	100	100	100
100	100	Wine Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Beer Wine	100	100	100	100

BUILDING, ROADS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	%	P/E
100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
100	100	Beck's	100	100	100	100
100	100	Brewery	100	100	100	100
100	100	Carlsberg	100	100	100	100
100	100	Guinness	100	100	100	100
100	100	Heineken	100	100	100	100
100	100	Kaiser Brewery	100	100	100	100
100	100	Lager Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Miller Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Pilsener Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Stout Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Townsend Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Wheat Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Yeast Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Barley Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Hop Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Malt Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Grain Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Seed Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Root Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Fruit Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Flower Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Herb Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Spice Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Medicine Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Wine Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Beer Wine	100	100	100	100
100	100	Wine Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Beer Wine	100	100	100	100

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	%	P/E
100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
100	100	Beck's	100	100	100	100
100	100	Brewery	100	100	100	100
100	100	Carlsberg	100	100	100	100
100	100	Guinness	100	100	100	100
100	100	Heineken	100	100	100	100
100	100	Kaiser Brewery	100	100	100	100
100	100	Lager Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Miller Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Pilsener Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Stout Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Townsend Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Wheat Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Yeast Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Barley Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Hop Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Malt Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Grain Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Seed Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Root Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Fruit Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Flower Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Herb Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Spice Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Medicine Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Wine Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Beer Wine	100	100	100	100
100	100	Wine Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Beer Wine	100	100	100	100

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	%	P/E
100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
100	100	Beck's	100	100	100	100
100	100	Brewery	100	100	100	100
100	100	Carlsberg	100	100	100	100
100	100	Guinness	100	100	100	100
100	100	Heineken	100	100	100	100
100	100	Kaiser Brewery	100	100	100	100
100	100	Lager Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Miller Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Pilsener Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Stout Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Townsend Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Wheat Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Yeast Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Barley Beer	100	100	100	100
100	100	Hop Beer				

Red runners caught on film

Big Brother is watching drivers joining a renegade band of "red light runners" who ignore traffic lights and cause 5,000 accidents a year. The rules of traffic lights are simple to understand and timed to give motorists the opportunity to react at a busy junction.

Yet police files bulge with details of crashes involving motorists who for some reason decide to try their luck at beating the lights against the laws of the road and the law of averages.

Why people drive through red lights is a mystery. The AA says that offenders are frequently young, mostly male and usually sober. They also know the risks, which has baffled scientists at the Transport and Road Research Laboratory, Crowthorne, Berkshire, who are researching the motivation of drivers determined to disobey.

Meanwhile, police are catching more drivers by installing cameras to watch over traffic lights. The Automobile Association (AA) estimates that cameras would prevent 20 per cent of the 5,000 accidents a year at traffic lights because motorists would take more care.

Triggered by a magnetic strip in the road, the cameras record two pictures in sequence: the first of the rogue car crossing the red light and a picture one second later of the car together with the time, day, date, and vehicle speed.



Running risks: a van is snapped jumping the lights

The police are putting a stop to red light running, reports

Kevin Eason

There are already 14 junctions under surveillance in London on main roads, and others in Birmingham and Nottingham.

From April 1 1992, the Road Traffic Act will allow police forces to expand their use of video and photographic material to capture rogue drivers and bring prosecutions. The first signs of this increased activity will be in the numbers of spy cameras sprouting on ten-foot poles at traffic light junctions.

Despite the installation cost of £20,000 per junction, the payback can be measured in reduced accidents and saved lives. The AA estimates that cutting accidents by a fifth would recoup savings of at least £100 million in bills for emergency services, lost time at work and insurance claims in the first year.

There have been few objections so far to a system that allows the police to take pictures of motorists to catch them in the act of running a red light, even with its implications of spying on the innocent as well as guilty.

There are likely to be fewer

complaints when people understand the impact these cameras can have on road safety. Motorists who might be prepared to stand up in court to argue about the evidence, soon cave in when confronted with pictures that show them breaking the law.

Of the first 1,000 drivers charged for running red lights, 980 pleaded guilty by letter because they knew their offences were committed at junctions under camera surveillance. Of the 20 drivers pleading not guilty, 16 changed their plea on seeing the pictorial evidence of their offence.

The evidence that the cameras are a good accident prevention measure is clear cut, according to Inspector Walker, who runs the Metropolitan Police's traffic light surveillance. Recent studies showed that red light running at one junction on the A40 in Hillingdon, west London, dropped by 57 per cent as soon as motorists knew they were being filmed.

Inspector Walker says: "Motorists who run the red light seem to fall into two categories. They are either inattentive and miss the lights or they do it deliberately, and we find plenty of those. We often photograph the same car committing an offence twice in three days."

It is those offenders the police will try to weed out. Only the worst 25 to 40 per cent of red light runners are prosecuted. The rest are sent a warning, something which Inspector Walker believes is often more useful than a prosecution.

He says: "If people are taken to court, they may keep quiet about that. If they get a warning they could tell their friends about the cameras and that everyone is being watched. That makes everyone take care and lowers the chances of accidents, which is the whole purpose of these cameras."



Golden years: Wilf and Barbara Medcalf enjoy a day trip in their Standard Flying 9 bought new in 1937

A PICNIC in the park for Wilf and Barbara Medcalf in front of their little car revives memories that go back more than half a century. Mr Medcalf bought the Standard Flying 9 in 1937 for £167 and 10 shillings at a showroom in Baker Street, London, so that he could take his new wife on honeymoon.

Since then, the couple have covered 200,000 miles in the saloon, which still has its

Honeymoon car sets standard

original spare wheel, toolbox and driver's manual.

Mr Medcalf, a retired engineer, says the Coventry-built Standard still achieves 35 miles to the gallon and is sprightly enough to take the couple on long runs from

their home in Solihull, West Midlands, as well as for rural roadside picnics. Because of its increasing age, the Medcalfs allow the Standard a winter rest and license the car only between April and October, when it is used for

day trips and driven to classic car rallies.

Mr Medcalf says: "We must be a pair of old romantics. We have a great fondness for the car now and it has become one of the family. We never really intended to keep it for so long. I expect it would fetch about £1,500 but I don't think we could sell it now. We will hand it to down to our children."

Diesel falters in economy test

ROADTEST

Sometimes the best laid plans of motoring correspondents come to naught. I was doing a terrific job of convincing my companion that the Citroën ZX was the best diesel car I had ever driven. (Kevin Eason writes.)

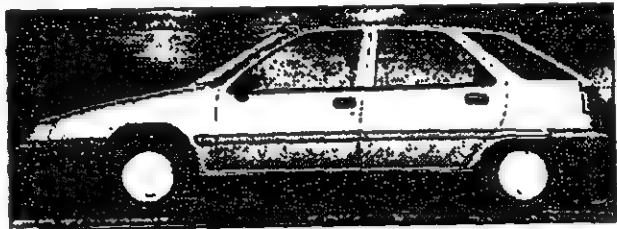
I had overcome his fears about starting in the cold, noisy engines and smoky exhaust fumes. A test drive of the 1.9 Avantage hatchback had him converted in a few minutes and off he went ready to preach to friends about the virtues of diesel.

All was well... except that the ZX failed to demonstrate its primary virtue - being miserly with my money. Instead of achieving as much as 600 miles to a tank of diesel, as claimed by Citroën, I could manage only 450 miles or fewer.

That suggests either a slight fault or that I was unconsciously driving the car harder in order to match the sort of performance normally

expected of a petrol model. Nevertheless, a return of between 35 and 40 miles to the gallon on a mix of heavy motorway and stop-start driving is still a healthy incentive towards taking this diesel car seriously. Currently, diesel-engined cars are catching on quicker than at any time. In October, sales were at their

highest ever - more than 10 per cent of new cars sold were diesels. The French have used their long experience at home to attain market leadership. The Peugeot 405 leads the diesel sales charts this year, followed by the Peugeot 205 and the Citroën BX. Forty five per cent of all 405s sold in Britain



Citroën ZX Avantage 1.9D

Price: £10,550. Engine: 1.9-litre diesel offering 70 brake horse power at 4,600rpm; five-speed gearbox. Performance: 0 to 60mph in 12.7 seconds, top speed 104mph; 42.2 miles per gallon in town.

are diesel powered, 49 per cent of 205s and 72 per cent of BXs.

This underlines that the old fears about diesel being largely dispelled. Diesel offers fuel economy as much as 30 per cent better than petrol equivalents and lower exhaust emissions.

They can also be fun to drive if ZX, Citroën's Escorialized competitor, is an example from which to judge.

The 1.9-litre diesel is extremely quiet and comfortably quick. Gear changes are easy, the interior cabin comfortable and spacious and the dashboard layout excellent. Boot capacity of 12.1 cubic feet with rear seats up is generous for a hatchback, and excellent for the weekly load from the supermarket.

All that adds up to a recommendation for a car that was third in the voting for European Car of the Year and will, no doubt, soon find its way onto the list of best-selling diesel models.

ROADWISE

VW hits jackpot

THE Volkswagen Golf has won the European Car of the Year award. Fifty-nine judges in 18 countries gave the new Golf 45 more points than the Vauxhall Astra.

VIP bids

Sealed bids are being accepted by Prestige Plates of Bristol for VIP 1, which has a reserve of £115,000. They are attached to a 1987 Cadillac Fleetwood limousine.

Dutch auction

Jan Smit, a Dutch motorcycle importer, has paid a record £50,412 at an auction in Milan for a bike which is yet to be built. Honda is now making his NR750 machine, which has a revolutionary engine with oval pistons.

Rover range

Rover has added four new 2-litre models to its 400 series. That stretches the saloon range from the 414Si 16v at £11,075 to the 420GSi Sport cat at £16,665.

Racy days

Brooklands, the former race track at Weybridge, Surrey, is holding a craft fair this weekend.

Jam attack

Top marks for silly things to do at the wheel go to a woman spotted in a traffic jam on the Holloway Road, north London, tucking into cornflakes.

Lighting up

From Monday, a new MoT headlamp check will require that lights must illuminate the road, as well being set so that other drivers are not dazzled.

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PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT

SESSION 1991-92

RIVER HUMBER (UPPER BURCOM COOLING WORKS)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application is being made to Parliament by Humber Power Limited (hereinafter referred to as "the Company") for leave to introduce in the present Session of Parliament a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

1. To authorise the construction by the Company of the following works ("the Works"):

Work No. 1 One or more conduits with one or more intakes commencing in the parish of Stallingborough in the borough of Cleethorpes in the county of Humberside and extending into the river Humber from the level of mean high-water springs for a distance of 1830 metres and then terminating.

Work No. 2 One or more conduits with one or more outfalls commencing in the parish of Stallingborough in the borough of Cleethorpes in the county of Humberside and extending into the river Humber from the level of mean high-water springs for a distance of 1590 metres and then terminating.

2. To authorise the construction by the Company of ancillary and subsidiary works, alterations and improvement of the Works and to confer powers on the Company to do so.

3. To confer powers on the Company to do so and to remove obstructions from the bed, foreshore and banks of the river Humber.

4. To authorise the abstraction of water from the river Humber by means of the Works and discharge of water into the said river by means of the Works, subject to a saving for the provisions of the Water Resources Act 1991.

5. To exempt the Works from the provisions of section 6 of the Humber Conservancy Act 1905 and to exempt the proposed powers to dredge from the requirements of section 8 of the said Act of 1905.

6. To include provisions relating to tidal works not to be executed without the approval of the Secretary of State for the Environment and to navigation, alteration of works abandoned or decayed, survey of tidal works, permanent lights on tidal works and lights on tidal works during construction.

7. To authorise the acquisition compulsorily or by agreement of lands in the parish of Stallingborough in the borough of Cleethorpes in the administrative county of Humberside and land forming part of the adjoining foreshore and bed of the sea for the purpose of the construction of the Works, obtaining access thereto, materials therefrom and depositing materials thereon and to authorise the purchase of new rights and the correction of errors in the deposited Plans and the Book of Reference.

8. To authorise the acquisition of parts of property and of easements over or in property, and to disregard recent improvements for the purpose of assessing compensation.

9. To incorporate and apply with amendment the provisions of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965.

10. To include protective provisions for Associated British Ports and the National Rivers Authority.

Duplicate Plans and sections of the Works and plans showing the lands which may be acquired or used compulsorily under the powers of the intended Act, together with a Book of Reference to said plans, were on or before the 20th day of November last deposited with the Chief Executive of the County Council of the administrative County of Humberside, with the Chief Executive and Clerk of the borough of Cleethorpes and with the Clerk of the parish Council of Stallingborough.

On and after the 4th day of December, 1991, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof may be obtained at the price of 50p each at the offices of the Department of Development and Tourism, Cleethorpes Borough Council, Civic Offices, Knoll Street, Cleethorpes, DN35 5LN and at the offices of the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

Copies both of the Environmental Statement relating to the Bill and a non-technical summary of it will also on and after the 4th day of December, 1991, be available for inspection, and for sale at the price of £10 and £5 respectively each at the offices mentioned above.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in either or both Houses of Parliament. The latest date for the deposit of such a Petition in the First House will be 30th January, 1992, if the Bill originates in the House of Commons or 6th February, 1992, if it originates in the House of Lords. Further information may be obtained from the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons, the office of the Clerk of the Parliaments in the House of Lords or the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 29th day of November, 1991.

DIYSON BELL, MARTIN & CO.,
1, Dean Parry Street,
Westminster, London, SW1P 0DY.
Parliamentary Agents.

IN PARLIAMENT

SESSION 1991-92

LONDON UNDERGROUND (GREEN PARK)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application is being made to Parliament by London Underground Limited ("the Company") for leave to introduce in the present Session of Parliament a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

1. Construction by the Company of the following works in the City of Westminster:

Work No. 1 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and St. James's Street to the junction of Strand and Whitehall and then to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall.

Work No. 2 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 3 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 4 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 5 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 6 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 7 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 8 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 9 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 10 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 11 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 12 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 13 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 14 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 15 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

IN PARLIAMENT

SESSION 1991-92

LONDON UNDERGROUND (JUBILEE)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application is being made to Parliament by London Underground Limited ("the Company") for leave to introduce in the present Session of Parliament a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

1. Construction by the Company of the following works in the City of Westminster:

Work No. 1 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and St. James's Street to the junction of Strand and Whitehall and then to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall.

Work No. 2 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 3 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 4 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 5 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 6 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 7 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 8 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 9 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 10 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 11 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 12 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 13 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 14 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 15 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 16 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 17 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 18 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 19 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 20 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 21 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 22 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 23 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 24 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 25 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 26 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 27 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 28 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 29 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 30 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 31 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

Work No. 32 A new line which will extend from the junction of Strand and Whitehall to the junction of Strand and Pall Mall and then to the junction of Strand and Whitehall.

IN PARLIAMENT

SESSION 1991-92

BRITISH RAILWAYS (NO. 4)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application is being made to Parliament in the present Session by the British Railways Board for leave to introduce a Bill under the above name or short title for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

1. Construction of the following works:

Work No. 1 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 2 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 3 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 4 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 5 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 6 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 7 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 8 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 9 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 10 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 11 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 12 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 13 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 14 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 15 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 16 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 17 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 18 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 19 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 20 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 21 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 22 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 23 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 24 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 25 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 26 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 27 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 28 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 29 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 30 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 31 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

Work No. 32 A railway of 1.560 miles in length in Shropshire, being a new chord line to connect the Shropshire Branch line with the East Coast Main Line.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF

STATIONERY LTD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that a Petition was presented to the High Court of Justice for the winding up of the said Stationery Ltd on 19 November 1991.

The Petition was presented by the Liquidator of the said Stationery Ltd.

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The

Liverpool re-emerge from the darkness

Souness senses the nightmare is about to end

BY STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IF GRAEME Souness cannot see the light at the end of the tunnel, he can at least sense that it is about to appear.

Liverpool are beginning to not only play like their sides of old but also, at long last, to approach full strength. Before the end of the year, Souness promises to have almost everyone available.

The only remaining long-term casualty is Whelan, the 30-year-old former captain whose knee injury is so severe that it threatens his career. All of the other players are either already back or about to complete their recuperation.

For the second leg of the Uefa Cup tie, against Swarovski Tirol, Souness may be spoiled for choice. Even Barnes, who was not expected to return before Christmas, and Rush, who underwent a cartilage operation last week, are considered to have "an outside chance" of being selected.

The improved state of health, apart from the obvious benefit, will restore one of Liverpool's traditions. All the members of Souness's squad will soon be competing for their place in the team. So far, most of them have been fighting merely to regain their own fitness.

Souness is now waiting for

his representatives to feel the pressure he himself experienced during his playing days at Anfield. Insecurity, he believes, was an effective motivator then and should be now.

Saunders, scorer of both goals in the 2-0 win on Wednesday, which will surely take the club into the last eight of the Uefa Cup, spoke about his fear of being omitted from the return game in a fortnight.

"Obviously, I would like to play at Anfield after the great result here," he said. "With Rush and Houghton likely to be back, though, it has crossed my mind that I may have to sit out just like I did in the first round."

Although Saunders scored four goals in the first leg at home to Kuusysi Lahti, the Welshman became a victim of Uefa's rule governing the selection of foreigners and was overlooked for the return visit to Finland.

He now holds the attitude sought by his manager and intends to make himself irreplaceable. "We've got three games before the second leg so I'll have to keep plugging away, hope the goals keep coming and make it difficult for the boss to leave me out."

"The important thing is to build on what I did in Innsbruck and start adding to my total in the League."

"I have had nothing but ups and ups in my career since I left Swansea. You know that you are going to get whacked by the critics now and then but I have been getting a lot recently. Now, I want to start doing the business for Liverpool."

Saunders is convinced that he and the club will be transformed once Barnes returns. "He is the key," he said. "He is the player who always excited me and I look forward to renewing the partnership with him."

It has so far lasted for only 153 minutes. Barnes, who damaged an Achilles tendon in Liverpool's second fixture, has missed 22 games.

Reports following his two operations are encouraging and Wright, who suffered a similar injury, confirmed on Wednesday, after his own prolonged absence, that recovery can be complete.

The reappearance of one England international was timely. Hugely influential in Liverpool's defensive organisation, he contributed to a performance which Souness described as "our best away and certainly in Europe". It extended their unbeaten sequence to five games. Omnisciently, that is the best of their troubled season.

Villa sign Parker, page 39

Thugs still moving freely

BY ROGAN TAYLOR

AN ENGLISH football hooligan, armed with a Stanley blade, sets off to watch his team play in Germany. On the evening of the match, he gets involved in a fight with rival supporters, and badly injures two of them. He is promptly arrested, charged, and convicted. After serving his sentence, he is returned to England in disgrace.

Will he be allowed to travel abroad again to watch a football match? Unfortunately, in spite of all the legislation in place, the answer is, yes he will.

It was the reported behav-

iour of English followers at the European championship in Germany in 1988 that finally provoked Mrs Thatcher's government to frame the Football Spectators Act. It has proved an ill-fated and, some might argue, hurriedly drafted piece of legislation. Part one of the act provided for the imposition of "identity cards" for all football supporters; an idea Lord Justice Taylor scotched after the Hillsborough inquiry.

Part two of the act, however, provided for "restriction orders" to be imposed on those convicted of football-

related offences abroad, preventing their subsequent travel to matches.

Unlike part one, this idea received general support. It is in force, and yet, almost two years on, less than 20 names appear on the restricted list.

Only two countries - Scotland and Italy - have agreed to the necessary procedures for providing evidence of any conviction. Consequently, wherever else in Europe the English hooligan may offend, he remains immune to a restriction order.

Since the return of English clubs to European competition, their supporters have travelled abroad without serious incident. Most supporters are determined to avoid violence at all costs, and, for the few who may still fancy it, vastly improved police intelligence and liaison make it extremely difficult to accomplish.

But, as crowd misbehaviour by the English appears to be diminishing, it is rising in other parts of Europe, particularly among Germans, who rioted in Brussels last week.

If we find ourselves in the future convicting German hooligans after rioting in London, perhaps the government in Bonn will want to restrict their travel. If so, it should agree to co-operate now. It may have been styled the "English disease" in the past, but soon the hooligan's boot may be on the other foot.

Rogan Taylor works at the Centre for Football Research at Leicester University.

What is it that makes you so special?

Please complete the questionnaire below to find out what makes you different from the rest of mankind.

Delete where applicable

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|--|----------|
| Q Are you immortal? | A Yes/No |
| Q If yes, then go to the last question | |
| Q Are you healthy/unhealthy? | A |
| Q Are you young/middle-aged/old? | A |
| Q Would you mind being paralysed? | A Yes/No |
| Q Would you miss talking and walking? | A Yes/No |
| Q Does it worry you that this week 2,000 people in Britain will suffer a disease that attacks the brain? | A Yes/No |
| Q Do you think you might be at risk? | A Yes/No |
| Q Did you know that a stroke kills or seriously disables little babies, brothers, teenagers and elderly people DAILY? | A Yes/No |
| Q Did you know that just £15 will pay for an hour of research? | A Yes/No |
| Q Are you going to give money towards research that could save you life? (if you are immortal then perhaps you could consider saving a friend) | A Yes/No |

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All lined up: Wattana sizes up a shot as he establishes a lead over James in the United Kingdom Open

Drago pays for impetuosity

BY PHIL YATES

STEPHEN Hendry, attempting to win his sixteenth consecutive snooker match in the United Kingdom Open, could count himself fortunate to emerge from the first session of his quarter-final with Tony Drago on level terms at 4-4 in Preston yesterday.

But for the impetuosity and nervousness of his opponent, Hendry, the champion, would probably have faced a hefty deficit going into the evening's play. The Scot, aged 22, and priced at 1-6 to win the best-of-17-frames match, was unhappy with his form.

The first frame went perfectly for Hendry, unbeaten in the tournament since his 16-12 defeat by Doug

Mounjoy in the 1988 final. Ignoring the awkward position of the colours, he made a break of 110 to suggest that the bookmakers' assessment of his chances was correct.

Drago, who at 22nd on the world list is the lowest-ranked player to reach the quarter-finals, responded with runs of 31 and 44 in the second frame but his catalogue of errors in the next pointed to an afternoon of Hendry domination.

As the tension rises in the later stages of a tournament, so Drago increases his speed around the table. It made him squander four gilt-edged scoring opportunities in the third frame. A missed black from his spot at 22-0 was followed by two missed reds and, most damaging of all, a

brown which caught the jaws of the left-hand baulk pocket. Hendry, the world No. 1, cleared the colours to win on the black and when he led 34-4 in the fourth frame, Drago's face seemed assured.

Having jumped from his chair when Hendry missed a straightforward pink into a middle pocket, Drago, with cue arm flailing and body movement on the shot noticeable, defied orthodoxy long enough to fashion a decisive run of 46 to level at 2-2.

Hendry continued to make mistakes after the 15-minute intermission. Drago, aged 26 and a professional for six years, compiled cavalier breaks of 33 and 49 on the way to a 4-2 lead. But Hendry halted his charged in a scrappy seventh frame.

With the score at 40-39 in the last frame, the final red failed to drop for Drago and Hendry capitalised with a clearance to pink for 4-4.

While Hendry and Drago were playing for the right to meet Jimmy White in the semi-finals, James Wattana, of Thailand, established a 5-3 lead over Steve James.

Wattana made breaks of 45, 70, 41, 36, 38 and 51. Should the world No. 20 prevail, he will progress to only the third ranking tournament semi-final of his three-year professional career. There he would meet John Parrott, the world champion.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: S. Hendry (500) beat A. Drago (Snooker), 4-2. James Wattana (Thailand) beat Steve James (England), 5-3. Steve James (England) beat John Parrott (England), 3-2. Steve James (England) beat John Parrott (England), 3-2.

Gallacher retains Cup captaincy

BY MEL WEBB

WIDESPREAD rumour became fact yesterday when Bernard Gallacher was confirmed as the captain of the European Ryder Cup golf team for the next two years. No other names were considered by the Cup committee at their meeting in London.

The Wentworth professional, aged 42, asked for and was given time to consider his future after the last match, in spite of the fact that he had the support of the whole team following Europe's 14-13½ defeat by the United States at Kiawah Island in September.

"He did a very good job," Neil Coles, captain of the day, said. "We are very pleased he has accepted the captaincy."

"The committee have always felt that it was a home and away appointment," Gallacher said. "The captaincy was harder than I thought it would be, but I am anxious to win back the Cup."

Gallacher's next team will

be selected on a different basis from this year's. The committee have recommended that qualification for the 12-man party should be taken place in a 12-month period starting at the 1992 European Masters. The proposal has to go before the meeting of the PGA European Tour's tournament committee on December 10, which is expected to be a formality.

For many years the selection has been based on points gathered in the season of the match, and this year Gallacher had to use two of his wild-card selections to pick Nick Faldo and Jose Maria Olazabal, who both played several tournaments in the United States. Gallacher is also to discuss with Tom Watson, his opposite number, the procedure should a player from either side not be fit to play in the singles.

Lanner on song, page 38

SIS move opens TV racing door

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A RADICAL shake-up of televised racing became a strong possibility yesterday when Chrysalis Television Mobiles won a £10 million contract to supply betting shops with pictures from Britain's 59 racecourses.

The announcement by Satellite Information Services (SIS) of the five-year deal with the independent production company follows criticism of the quality of coverage provided by Racecourse Technical Services (RTS), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Horserace Betting Levy Board.

The switch to Chrysalis next May will open the way for SIS to sell coverage to BBC, Channel 4 and BSkyB.

Television networks will almost certainly welcome the opportunity to buy coverage rather than pay the high cost of using their own crews.

Christopher Stoddart, managing director of SIS, said: "I would hope we will

have opportunities to provide BBC and Channel 4. BSkyB has approached us and we are having discussions."

"The important thing for racing is that the lower the marginal costs we can offer the broadcasters, the more likely it is broadcasters will want to cover racing in the current competitive environment."

The Racecourse Association, which has a ten per cent stake in SIS, voted in favour of Chrysalis being awarded the contract.

The decision is a severe blow for RTS, which employs 170 staff. The company yesterday declined to comment on reports that Nigel Pitt, the managing director, had resigned.

RTS is also responsible for starting stalls, photo-finish equipment and providing pictures for racecourse stewards.

Russian triumph, page 37

Route one leads nowhere for the politicians

BY SIMON BARNES

COMMENT

OLD parliamentary hands told me it was a pretty dire debate. I was happy about that. I had been worried that all the affairs of the nation were dealt with like Wednesday night's session on the government record on sport: by a structure of petty point-scoring, tub-thumping, self-advertisement, fact-and-figure bandying, dodging and fudging, erected tottering over a bottomless intellectual abyss.

It was like watching a dire 0-0 draw in a fourth division relegation match: both sides took route one, with no finesse, no invention, no originality of thought, and no shred of international class. The only justification for such a method is victory, but neither got within shooting range. Both were satisfied with a bit of intimidation

and a point. What was it all about?

Hmm. Difficult one, that. It was an opposition debate. The motion might be translated as: "The government's record on sport is sinking, rotten and putrid." The government proposed an amendment that was roughly: "Oh no it's not."

Presumably, the opposition chose to use its valuable parliamentary time in such a way because it thought that the government was vulnerable on sport. Denis Howell ("half the country think I'm still minister for sport, and the other half think I still should be") did the stuff for the opposition: playing with all the creativity of Peter Storey in his pomp, he laid into the government with a will. He said that in 12 years,

the government had not initiated a single debate on sport, and off he went about "12 years of neglect". Robert Atkins, the fifth minister for sport in those 12 years, declared that the government had, in fact, given sport a high priority, and the opposition did not know what sport was all about.

But both sides lacked conviction. You cannot keep politics out of sport, we all know that, but British politicians seem to be doing their damndest to keep sport out of their own political lives.

Sport, on the whole, is beneath the politicians' contempt. Sport is only a chance to show yourself a good sort by presenting a cup or shaking hands with a gold medal winner. For the average politician, sport is nothing more than a photo-opportunity.

Sport goes 12 years without a government debate, and then in three hours, all kinds of important issues crop up: betting, national lottery, vandalism, police funding, the philosophy and financing of education, the value of recreation, rate-relief, alcohol, international relations, the competitive

spirit, and, naturally, drugs. In fact, Atkins declared his fulsome support for the notion of funding sport through sales of addictive drugs. But that is an issue for another day; the drugs are, of course, nicotine and alcohol.

These issues matter. But sport has never been a hot political topic in this country. It has never been an area that has attracted people from the first division of politics. And certainly in the last 12 years, sport has been an area of non-concern, save for the ill-fated identity card scheme. This was an issue which seemed to sum up for all time the Thatcherite approach to sport.

What seems so astonishing is how large a part sport plays in national life, and how small a part it plays in big-time politics. Sport is not intellectually respectable. Christopher Chataway found

Bath to lose league point

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BATH, champions of rugby union's Courage Clubs Championship, will defend their title this season under the handicap of having a league point deducted yesterday - though they have yet to be told who has made a complaint against them.

It was confirmed that Laurie Heatherley, the centre from New Zealand who is in his second season with Bath, played against London Irish on November 16 without having fulfilled the registration requirements, which have been tightened this season. The irony of the punishment is that Heatherley would not have played in the game, Bath's only league match so far, but for Jonathan Webb falling ill.

Since Bath's second choice fullback, Jonathan Callard, was injured and their third choice, Audley Lumsden was at Oxford University, Heatherley switched positions and took part in the 26-21 victory in which he scored a try. The punishment leaves Bath with one point and in eighth place in the first division table.

A statement from the Rugby Football Union Senior Clubs Association executive committee, which heard the complaint against Bath, said that Heatherley "was not registered when he played against London Irish. In accordance with Courage Clubs Regulation 9A and National Division Players Regulations, the committee has decided to deduct one championship point from Bath this season. This takes immediate effect."

Such action is unprecedented in the national divisions of the championship, but will obviously act as a warning at a time of considerable concern about player movement between clubs, although that is not at issue in this case. Regulation 9A reads: "All players must be registered on the player registration form approved by the committee before they take part in any league match."

Clive Howard, the Bath secretary, said: "It was an administrative oversight, as simple as that. We are required to register all our players and Laurie was somehow overlooked. It's not as though he's a new player and it's certainly not a deliberate attempt to pull the wool over anyone's eyes."

"We have not been advised who made the complaint, or whether it was a club or an individual." However, under the competition's Rule 20, the complaining club should send a copy of their complaint to the other party, as well as to the competition organisers.

Alan Davies, the Wales coach, has appointed Gareth Jenkins, the most successful club coach in Wales, as his assistant for the five nations championship. In ten seasons as coach at Llanelli, Jenkins, the former Wales B flanker, has helped the club win the Schweppes Cup three times and the Merit Table once.

Pierre Villeneuve, the former Toulouse coach, is reported to have declined the post of coach to France.

Cardiff's struggle, page 38



Chataway: handicapped

Parliament, page 7

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